United Nations A/C.3/70/SR.49

General Assembly
Seventieth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
13 January 2016

Original: English

Third Committee

Summary record of the 49th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 18 November 2015, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Hilale .... (Morocco)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 72: Promotion and protection of human rights (*continued*)

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms (*continued*) (A/C.3/70/L.34)

Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.34: Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights

1. **The Chair** said that he had been advised that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

2. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) said that China, El Salvador, Paraguay, the Russian Federation and South Sudan had joined the sponsors.

Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.34 was adopted.

3. **Ms. Brooke** (United States of America) said the her country maintained that the resolution neither altered the mandate of any international human rights mechanism nor affected the ability of the General Assembly or the Human Rights Council to adopt resolutions to which States did not consent.

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives (*continued*) (A/C.3/70/L.39/Rev.1 and A/C.3/70/L.65)

Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.39/Rev.1 Situation of human rights in Myanmar

4. **The Chair** said that the statement of programme budget implications for the draft resolution was contained in document A/C.3/70/L.65.

5. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Norway, the Republic of Korea, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey and Ukraine had joined the sponsors.

6. **Ms. Lucas** (Luxembourg), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the European Union and the other sponsors, read out a few oral revisions to the text. Paragraph 6 had been amended to read: "Calls on all actors to sustain the democratic transition of Myanmar by bringing all national institutions, including the military, under a democratically elected, fully representative civilian government." Paragraph 18 had been amended to read: "Urges the Government of Myanmar to further facilitate the work of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in Myanmar and to grant her unimpeded access to the country, bearing in mind the lack of such access, including to Rakhine State, during her last visit, and to fulfil its commitment, without further delay, to establish a country office with a full mandate and in accordance with the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights." The footnote at the end of paragraph 20 (a) had been amended to read: "A/70/332, para. 45".

7. The draft resolution reflected the substantial progress that had been achieved in Myanmar's democratic transition. The elections held on 8 November 2015 had marked a historic milestone in that ongoing transition, with millions of people in Myanmar exercising their right to vote. The draft resolution encouraged continued transparency in the next stages of the electoral process and consideration of the recommendations emerging from the national and international observation teams. Concerns regarding unelected seats in Myanmar's parliament must be addressed. The draft resolution also welcomed broader reform efforts in Myanmar and, as a critical foundation for future stability, the signing by the Government of Myanmar and eight armed groups of a nationwide ceasefire agreement. All religious and ethnic minorities must participate in discussions on ways to achieve lasting peace in the country. The draft resolution also encouraged continued efforts to address the plight of migrants and refugees in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

8. The draft resolution addressed a number of remaining human rights concerns, including in relation to the situation of persons belonging to the Rohingya and other minorities, and emphasized that the country's legislation must uphold human rights principles and ensure that freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly were fully safeguarded.

Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.39/Rev.1, as orally revised, was adopted.

9. **Mr. Tin** (Myanmar) reaffirmed his delegation's principled opposition to the selective tabling of country-specific resolutions and its conviction that the universal periodic review, in which his country actively participated, was the most dependable and uncontroversial monitoring mechanism to address human rights situations in all countries. Nonetheless, in

keeping with the spirit of cooperation that Myanmar continued to demonstrate, his delegation had refrained from calling for a vote on the draft resolution.

10. His delegation welcomed the recognition accorded in the resolution to a number of the positive developments that had taken place in Myanmar. In that regard, the general elections that had been successfully held on 8 November 2015 marked another significant step forward in the country's reform process. Thousands of local and international observers, including from the European Union and the Carter Center, had monitored those elections, which had been free, fair and transparent, and more than 80 per cent of those eligible to vote had done so. Myanmar had entered a new era, and was committed to the further advancement of peace, democracy and development.

11. Regrettably, however, the draft resolution had fallen short of fully acknowledging the significant steps that Myanmar had made with a view to further promoting and protecting human rights. In particular, his delegation maintained reservations to paragraphs 3, 4, 6, 10, 12, 14 and 15, which contained misleading language. Paragraph 3 incorrectly cited religion and ethnicity as grounds for disenfranchisement and the discriminatory disqualification of candidates in Myanmar. Instead, certain candidates had failed to meet the country's eligibility criteria, in accordance with which they and both their parents must be citizens of Myanmar. As was the case in many other States, the rights to vote and to stand for election were only granted to citizens. Paragraph 4 had been superseded by recent developments in Myanmar. Indeed, all parties had already agreed to engage in dialogue to ensure that a peaceful and smooth political transition took place in the country. Furthermore, paragraphs 4 and 6 went beyond the scope of human rights and criticized the country's political system. That was unacceptable, as every State had the right to choose its own political system in accordance with its history, traditions, values, realities and constitution. Paragraph 10 was a ritual paragraph that made sweeping allegations that were repeated year after year. Paragraph 12 also voiced undue concerns about certain domestic laws, the application of which was voluntary rather than mandatory. Indeed, with a view to upholding religious freedom, Myanmar sought to prevent only forced conversions. Furthermore, the 1982 Citizenship Law had been enacted in view of the country's geographical location and demography. None of the aforementioned laws ran counter to Myanmar's international legal obligations.

12. His delegation reiterated its long-standing opposition to the use of the term "Rohingya", used in paragraphs 3 and 14. There was no such minority among his country's ethnic groups and the use of that term would only hinder resolution of the issue by drawing the resentment of the people of Myanmar. His delegation shared the concerns expressed in the draft resolution about communal tensions in Rakhine State, but emphasized that exaggeration of the facts and politicization of that issue could only exacerbate those tensions. Moreover, paragraph 14 failed to mention the measures taken by the Government to restore and maintain peace and stability, including its efforts to provide humanitarian assistance, facilitate gradual and voluntary resettlement, verify the citizenship of residents and promote economic development and interfaith dialogue. No violence had occurred in Rakhine State since 2012. Citizenship was always open to those wishing to take part in Myanmar's verification process, which was being undermined by external actors. Nonetheless, more than 900 applicants and their family members had been granted citizenship. Meanwhile, the reintegration programme had facilitated the resettlement of over 2,000 households in 2015 alone. There were no restrictions on the right to marry or on the registration of births. The Government was also cooperating closely with aid organizations to provide humanitarian assistance, particularly in Rakhine State, and access to education, health care, food, water and other services was granted to all communities. No restrictions on movement were imposed in areas where communities lived in harmony. Myanmar regretted that severe weather conditions had prevented the Special Rapporteur from visiting Rakhine State during her most recent visit to the country. With regard to opening in Myanmar of a country office of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the terms and conditions of that office must be mutually agreed beforehand and must address the needs of the host country.

13. Political reforms have made Myanmar far freer and more open than it had been in the past and all political stakeholders were committed to resolving the country's problems through constructive dialogue. His delegation welcomed the inclusion in the resolution of paragraph 20 and emphasized that ending the tabling of

the country-specific resolution on Myanmar would be an appropriate response by the United Nations to the progress made by his country. His delegation stood ready to work with the international community to further advance peace, stability and development.

14. **Mr. Essam** (Egypt), speaking on behalf of the States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), said that OIC had been pleased to join the consensus on the draft resolution and that engagement with States hosting Muslim communities was a prerogative enshrined in the OIC Charter. In the light of concerns expressed in Human Rights Council resolution 29/21 on the situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar, OIC had intended to table its own draft resolution, but had put that aside in favour of a single united draft that could be adopted by consensus and with the consent of the country concerned. The Organization hoped that Myanmar appreciated the spirit in which the resolution had been adopted and would accept all its paragraphs, and regretted that Myanmar had so far rejected paragraphs that highlighted concerns of the international community.

15. His Organization was deeply concerned that the Rohingya and other minorities in Myanmar continued to suffer discrimination and political disenfranchisement and had been prevented from participating in the recently held elections. The Group hoped that those elections would pave the way for the restoration of citizenship rights for the Rohingya minority and for further reforms leading to a political process that involved all minorities in Myanmar regardless of their ethnicity, religion or belief. OIC was pleased that many of its suggestions had been taken into account in the draft resolution but reiterated its serious concerns regarding human rights and the humanitarian situation in Rakhine State. To uphold citizens' rights there and meet their humanitarian and medical needs, the Government of Myanmar should enact further legislative reforms, inter alia, by repealing laws restricting fundamental freedoms. OIC reiterated that it stood ready provide all necessary support through constructive engagement with Myanmar with a view to addressing challenges in Rakhine State.

16. **Mr. Wat** (Singapore) said that his Government objected on principle to country-specific resolutions, which were selective, divisive, counterproductive and often motivated by politics rather than human rights. His delegation therefore abstained from voting on country specific resolutions. Notwithstanding that principled approach, his delegation had taken note of the general agreement among Member States with regard to the recently adopted resolution, and had therefore chosen to join the consensus.

17. **Mr. Yao** Shaojun (China) said that his delegation had always advocated addressing contentious human rights issues through constructive dialogue based on equality and mutual respect and had opposed the politicization of human rights issues and the use of those issues to put pressure on specific countries. Member States should address the legitimate concerns of Myanmar instead of adopting a country specific resolution, which were not the way forward. China had therefore not joined the consensus on that resolution. Ongoing concerns should be resolved as soon as and as effectively as possible by maintaining stability and promoting long-term development in Myanmar.

18. **Ms. Vadlati** (Iran) said that her delegation had joined the consensus but maintained that the selective adoption of country-specific resolutions, in particular in the Third Committee, constituted exploitation of that forum for political ends and breached the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of universality, non-selectivity and objectivity in addressing human rights issues. It also undermined cooperation — an essential principle for promoting and protecting all universally recognized human rights. Her delegation believed that the universal periodic review of the Human Rights Council provided a mechanism for reviewing human rights in all Member States on an equitable basis and commended the active participation of Myanmar in that process. The Committee should refrain from tabling any further country specific resolutions.

19. **Ms. Moreno Guerra** (Cuba) said that although her delegation had joined the consensus on the draft resolution, it maintained its principled position against country-specific resolutions that targeted specific countries for political ends. The harmful and selective practices of politicization and the application of double standards in the examination of human rights had discredited and led to the demise of the Commission on Human Rights. The universal periodic review process of the Human Rights Council must be accorded the importance it merited so that it could address the human rights challenges countries faced. The only way to promote and defend human rights effectively was

through genuine international cooperation based on the principles of objectivity, non-conditionality, impartiality and non-selectivity.

20. **Ms. Mozolina** (Russian Federation) said that intergovernmental cooperation was of crucial importance in States' efforts to uphold their human rights obligations pursuant to international instruments. States bore primary responsibility for defending human rights and the United Nations should therefore focus on providing technical assistance to those States. Experience had shown that politicized, country-specific resolutions, including the resolution that had just been adopted, could neither resolve human rights challenges, nor facilitate constructive dialogue with the countries in question. Although the Russian Federation had not voted against the draft resolution, it did not see the need for such resolutions, which undermined the universal periodic review process. The Third Committee should cease its consideration of such resolutions.

21. **Mr. Plasai** (Thailand) said that his delegation fully supported the democratization and national reconciliation process in Myanmar, congratulated that country on the success of its recent elections and warmly welcomed the signing of a ceasefire agreement between the Government of Myanmar and a number of armed groups. Thailand encouraged Myanmar to continue its reform programme, work with its international partners with a view to acceding to core human rights treaties and fully uphold its existing human rights obligations. Thailand commended efforts by Myanmar to tackle the issue of irregular migrants in the Indian Ocean and hoped to continue to work closely with its Government to address that issue in an effective, comprehensive and sustainable manner. Thailand also wished to continue its provision of assistance to the people of Rakhine State and called on the international community to work closely with the Government of Myanmar to support social and economic development there. The international community must also constructively support the reform process in Myanmar. Although his delegation had joined the consensus on the draft resolution, it emphasized that the Third Committee should refrain from adopting country-specific resolutions in the future.

22. **Mr. Do** Hung Viet (Viet Nam) said that although his delegation had joined the consensus, the most productive way to address human rights issues was not through the adoption of divisive and selective country specific resolutions, but through constructive dialogue and effective cooperation based on mutual understanding and respect. That was particularly the case for Myanmar, as that country had made significant progress in its efforts to promote human rights as well as economic and social development, democracy, peace and national reconciliation. He congratulated Myanmar on the success of its elections and believed that the national reconciliation process would ensure that the country enjoyed a stable and prosperous future, thereby furthering the interests of the people of Myanmar and of the wider region. He also commended Myanmar's constructive engagement with other States, regional organizations and United Nations human rights bodies to address matters of shared interest, including within the context of the universal periodic review of the Human Rights Council. Further resolutions on the human rights situation in Myanmar were unnecessary and counterproductive.

23. **Ms. Belskaya** (Belarus) said that her country had refused to join the consensus because it consistently opposed country-specific resolutions, which constituted interference in the internal affairs of States. Indeed, such resolutions were often tabled merely to promote narrow political agendas and exert pressure on the Governments of the countries concerned. Despite the constructive engagement of Myanmar with the international community, the sponsors of the draft resolution had refused to alter their approach in any meaningful way and had continued their attempts to impose their views on Myanmar. All human rights concerns must be dealt with through the universal periodic review of the Human Rights Council or in bilateral forums.

24. **Mr. Joshi** (India) said that every State had the right to organize its internal affairs, including in the field of human rights, as it saw fit. The selective targeting of countries and intrusive monitoring of their internal affairs had proven counterproductive and should be avoided. India had joined the consensus on the draft resolution but would not support any further country-specific United Nations initiatives that targeted Myanmar. Instead, India believed that an approach based on constructive engagement, technical assistance and cooperation between the international community and the Government of Myanmar was the most effective way to address human rights issues in that country. The political and economic reforms

undertaken by the Government of Myanmar and its efforts to achieve inclusive and broad-based national reconciliation were warmly welcomed. India also believed that the signing of a nationwide ceasefire agreement in October 2015 was a significant milestone in that country's peace process. A close and friendly neighbour of Myanmar, India had provided more than $1.5 billion to fund development projects in various parts of that country, including Rakhine State, where the Government of Myanmar had enacted welcome measures to restore law and order. India commended Myanmar's expressed readiness to cooperate with United Nations and other humanitarian agencies to address the plight of those affected by violence. India had, moreover, sent a team of observers to monitor the recent elections, which were a testament to Myanmar's commitment to democratic transition.

25. Regrettably, certain drafters of the resolution had sought to focus on sectarian issues. Such a focus risked sowing divisions among Member States and impeding their efforts to further the United Nations human rights agenda. While encouraging the Government of Myanmar to address human rights issues, the United Nations and its Member States must respond more positively to the reforms that Government was implementing.

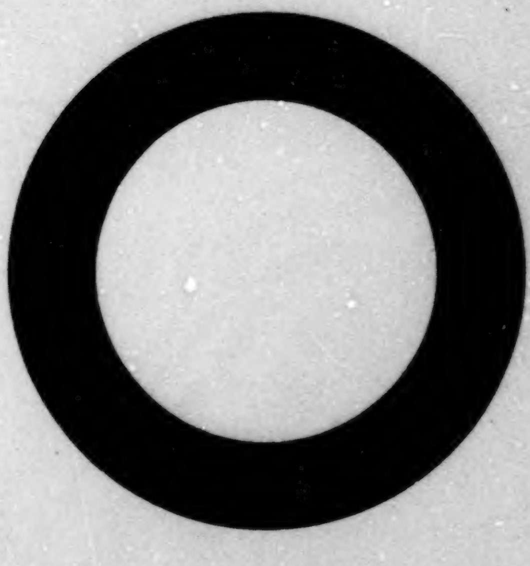
26. **Ms. Yparraguirre** (Philippines) said that her delegation had joined the consensus on the resolution and welcomed the progress that Myanmar had achieved in its efforts to foster democracy, further political reform and uphold human rights. The transparent, multiparty elections held earlier that month and the signing of a peace accord between the Government of Myanmar and a number of armed ethnic groups were a testament to Myanmar's efforts to promote peace and development. Those efforts merited the support of the international community. The Philippines sincerely hoped that no further country-specific resolutions on Myanmar would prove necessary.

27. **Mr. Choe** Myong Nam (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) reiterated his country's principled position against all politically motivated and divisive country-specific resolutions. Any politicized and selective approach to human rights situations ran counter to the principle of objectivity and impartiality. Such an approach was dangerous and counter-productive. His delegation was against all attempts to violate the sovereignty and integrity of States and to any interference in their internal affairs on the pretext of human rights concerns. The United Nations must desist, once and for all, from adopting such country-specific resolutions.

28. **Mr. Mizumoto** (Japan) said that his country's delegation had joined the consensus in recognition of the positive developments that had recently taken place in Myanmar. Japan appreciated Myanmar's continuing efforts to promote democracy and national reconciliation and believed that a smooth and peaceful transfer of power would strengthen democracy in the country. Japan shared the concerns of the international community regarding the human rights situation of ethnic and religious minorities, including those in Rakhine State, as well as the situation of refugees in Myanmar. His country would continue to strengthen its excellent bilateral relations with Myanmar and believed that by engaging in a dialogue on human rights, Myanmar could strengthen its ties with the international community. The Japanese delegation hoped that the Government of Myanmar would continue to address the international community's remaining human rights concerns so that resolutions on the human rights situation in Myanmar would no longer be necessary.

29. **Mr. Poveda Brito** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that delegation reiterated its principled position of rejecting politicized and selective approaches to human rights issues. The adoption of country-specific resolutions violated the principle of universality and non-selectivity with which human rights issues should be approached, and undermined the mandate of the Human Rights Council. Cooperation and dialogue were the appropriate means for the effective promotion and protection of human rights. In that respect, the member States of the Non-Aligned Movement believed that, to avoid any duplication of effort in the area of human rights, greater coherence was required between the work of the Committee and the Human Rights Council and that countries' human rights records should be examined within the context of the universal periodic review.

The meeting rose at 4 p.m.



United Nations A/C.3/70/SR.50

General Assembly
Seventieth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
12 January 2016

Original: English

Third Committee

Summary record of the 50th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 19 November 2015, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Hilale .... (Morocco)

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(a) Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (*continued*)

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Agenda item 72: Promotion and protection of human rights (*continued*)

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms (*continued*)

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives (*continued*)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 72: Promotion and protection of human rights (*continued*)

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms (*continued*) (A/C.3/70/L.43)

Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.43: Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights

1. **Mr. Essam** (Egypt), introducing the draft resolution, said that it emphasized the need for fair and equal treatment of all human rights, given their universality, indivisibility, interrelatedness and interdependence. In that regard, the United Nations human rights framework must ensure a balance between civil and political rights, on the one hand, and economic, social and cultural rights, on the other. The draft resolution also emphasized that development should be at the centre of the international economic agenda; underscored the right to development; stressed the importance of addressing the development gap between and within countries in order to mitigate the negative impact of globalization; and also urged transnational corporations and other enterprises to conduct their business operations in a responsible manner.

2. Noting that the draft resolution had been slightly modified from the previous year to reflect the adoption of General Assembly resolution 70/1, particularly its emphasis on poverty eradication and the three pillars of sustainable development, he read out a number of oral revisions to the text.

3. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, China, Comoros, Cuba, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, the Sudan, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen and Zimbabwe had joined the sponsors.

Agenda item 68: Promotion and protection of the rights of children (*continued*)

(a) Promotion and protection of the rights of children (*continued*) (A/C.3/70/L.29/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.29/Rev.1: The girl child

4. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

5. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, France, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine and Uruguay had joined the sponsors.

6. **Mr. Ntwaagae** (Botswana), speaking on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), said that consultations had been instrumental in strengthening the draft resolution, which addressed issues pertinent to the region, particularly the impact on the well-being of the girl child from a lack of access to water, sanitation and hygiene, and that obstacles that posed to her education and enjoyment of human rights. The draft resolution also contained a request for a status update on the implementation of the provisions of General Assembly resolution 68/146 relating to the priority theme of child-headed households, which had not been included in the Secretary-General's 2015 report (A/70/267).

7. SADC had exercised great flexibility in accommodating proposals from delegations to achieve a critical and hard-won consensus on a draft resolution that aimed to empower the girl child to navigate the specific challenges she faced. In particular, it had worked tirelessly to ensure that new language was introduced in several paragraphs, amid strong opposition from some delegations. Lastly, SADC was encouraged by the increased sponsorship for the draft resolution and welcomed the support of additional sponsors.

8. *Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.29/Rev.1 was adopted.*

9. **Mr. Oppenheimer** (Netherlands), speaking also on behalf of Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom, said that their delegations had engaged constructively in negotiations on the draft resolution as a reflection of their commitment to advancing the human rights of girls and boys worldwide. However, some other delegations had not fully supported the draft resolution on the grounds that it lacked adequate references to comprehensive sexuality education. The delegations on behalf of which he spoke stood ready to contribute to enhance the comprehensiveness of Secretary-General's report (A/70/267) and appreciated the work of the Secretariat in that regard.

10. The commitments assumed under the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women must be translated into reality. Their delegations would continue to work with all partners in order to unlock the potential and power of girls and boys around the world.

11. **Ms. Morton** (Australia), speaking also on behalf of Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, said that the draft resolution offered an opportunity to recognize issues faced by young women and girls worldwide.

12. When asked to suggest priority themes for future draft resolutions on the girl child, two girl advocates from the Working Group on Girls had emphasized the important role of girl-led organizations in enabling girls to articulate the unique issues they faced and advocate for change. It was therefore crucial to ensure that the perspectives of girl leaders were represented not only in dialogues on gender, but also on issues affecting their communities and the world.

13. She called on the sponsors of the draft resolution to designate girl leadership as the theme of the next report of the Secretary-General and of the draft resolution to be presented at the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly, with a view to ensuring that girls were empowered as partners and allies in processes that affected their lives.

14. **Ms. Boissiere** (Trinidad and Tobago) reaffirmed her country's commitment to protect the human rights of all of its citizens, including girls, as provided for by its Constitution. Trinidad and Tobago would therefore interpret the provisions of the draft resolution in accordance with its national laws, policies and priorities in an effort to enhance the quality of life and enjoyment of human rights by all citizens, including the girl child.

15. **Mr. Mack** (United States of America) said that his country was committed to supporting the advancement of children around the world, regardless of their gender. In addition to being the top contributor to the United Nations Children's Fund, his Government had launched an initiative to enable adolescent girls worldwide to attend and complete school and an initiative to reduce HIV infections in adolescent girls and young women. The United States recognized that much remained to be done to ensure that girls enjoyed equal access to education and opportunities. It would also work to eliminate exploitative child labour around the world, including substantial national efforts to protect the child victims of human trafficking.

16. It was inappropriate to insert into the draft resolution an expression of disappointment in the Secretary-General's report (A/70/267). His delegation therefore regretted that it was unable to sponsor the draft resolution, as it had done in previous years. The United States would however continue to collaborate with its international partners in promoting gender equality and the rights of children.

Agenda item 70: Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (*continued*)

(a) Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (*continued*) (A/C.3/70/L.59/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.59/Rev.1: Combating glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

17. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

18. **Mr. Zagaynov** (Russian Federation) said that the draft resolution was before the Committee at a symbolic

time, seventy years since the establishment of the Nuremberg Tribunal, the defeat of Nazism and the creation of the United Nations. Victory in the Second World War had been crucial to forging a framework for the protection of human rights, which included the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racism. Such fundamental instruments had been the response of the United Nations to the crime of Nazism and policies violating human dignity.

19. The fact that some delegations were calling for a vote on the draft resolution, which not only addressed the protection of human rights, but also paid tribute to those who had sacrificed their lives, reflected an attempt to deny and rewrite history. The glorification of those involved in the crimes of Nazism, including whitewashing the crimes of former SS and Waffen SS members, was unacceptable. Such fuelling of contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance was cause for grave concern.

20. Some European countries, including those that had been occupied during the Second World War, were currently waging a war against monuments honouring those who had fought against Nazism. At the same time, those who had fought against the anti-Hitler coalition or had collaborated with the Nazis were being raised to the level of national heroes or champions of national liberation movements. The issue at hand was not one of political correctness, but of addressing attempts to falsify history. Such trends were blatant cynicism and blasphemous towards those who had freed the world from the horrors of Nazism. Furthermore, they were criminal acts according to article 4 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

21. Some delegations had long intimated that racism and the spread of racist ideas could not be tackled through bans or criminal prosecutions, arguing that a healthy and democratic society would naturally reject neo-Nazism, racism and other scourges incompatible with democratic principles. However, that argument had been refuted by recent developments, including ones in close proximity to the Russian Federation. The sponsors believed firmly that the draft resolution, through the widest support possible, would make an essential contribution to combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. Adoption of the draft resolution was a common duty not only to the founding fathers of the United Nations, but also to the succeeding generations whom the Organization had determined to save from the scourge of war.

22. Lastly, he drew attention to a few corrections that needed to be made to the Russian translation of the draft resolution.

23. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the Russian translation would be aligned with the original text accordingly. He added that Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Jordan, the Philippines, Rwanda, Serbia, Tunisia and the United Republic of Tanzania had joined the sponsors.

24. **Ms. Belskaya** (Belarus), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, said that Nazism was a totalitarian ideology advocating the superiority of one nation over others that had led to crimes against humanity and genocide. Those crimes had been rightly condemned by the Nuremberg Tribunal as war crimes, which had been a turning point in the history of humanity and had led to the creation of the United Nations and efforts to build a world order based on tolerance and solidarity. Unfortunately, extremist movements and groups continued to openly promote the heinous crimes of Nazism using neo-Nazism and other ideologies of racial supremacy. It was a matter of concern that, at times, some Governments had facilitated the spread of such ideas by citing freedom of speech. Such evil ideology must be combatted. That required clearly recalling what crimes had been committed. Her Government would thus vote in favour of the draft resolution.

25. **Ms. Phipps** (United States of America) said that, as in years past, her delegation condemned the glorification of Nazism and all modern forms of racism, xenophobia, discrimination and related intolerance. Her Government was an active partner in promoting remembrance of the Holocaust and other genocides worldwide, and continued to lead efforts to bring the perpetrators of such crimes to justice. More broadly, it unreservedly condemned all forms of religious and ethnic intolerance or hatred, domestically and around the world. Nevertheless, her delegation could not support the draft resolution because it was politicized, called for unacceptable limits on the fundamental freedom of expression, and continued to have a narrow scope, doing little to recognize and combat the remnants of other historical tragedies such as the

Rwandan genocide, Pol Pot's murderous regime in Cambodia or the slaughter currently ravaging the Syrian Arab Republic.

26. Her delegation continued to be concerned that the Russian Federation was using the draft resolution to carry out political attacks against its neighbours. While her delegation shared concerns over the rise in hate speech throughout the world, the draft resolution's recommendations to limit freedom of expression, freedom of association and the right to peaceful assembly contravened the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and must be opposed. Similarly, States must refrain from invoking article 4 of the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, and article 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to limit freedom of expression or as an excuse for failing to take effective measures to combat intolerance in its many forms. Her Government would thus vote against the draft resolution, and called on other States to do the same.

27. **The Chair** said that a recorded vote had been requested on draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.59/Rev.1.

28. **Mr. Zagaynov** (Russian Federation) asked which delegation had requested the recorded vote.

29. **The Chair** said that the vote had been requested by the delegation of the United States of America.

30. **Mr. Agha** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the draft resolution addressed a very important issue that was related to intolerance and racism. Combating Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contributed to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance was an important step in the fight against terrorism, which affected all countries of the world. His delegation would thus vote in favour of the draft resolution.

31. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.3/70/SR.59/Rev.1.*

In favour:

> Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Congo (Democratic Republic of the), Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea (Democratic People's Republic of), Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Tanzania (United Republic of), Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

> Canada, Palau, Ukraine, United States of America.

Abstaining:

> Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kiribati, Korea (Republic of), Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia (The former Yugoslav Republic of), Malta, Republic of Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tonga, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

32. *Draft resolution A/C.3/70/SR.59/Rev.1 was adopted by 126 votes to 4, with 53 abstentions.*

33. **Mr. Yaremenko** (Ukraine), speaking in explanation of vote after the voting, said that his country, which had been among those that had suffered the most from the Nazi occupation during the Second World War,

strongly condemned all forms of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contributed to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. However, the draft resolution had nothing in common with that struggle but rather reflected the Russian Federation's manipulation of history and the essence of the Nuremburg Tribunal in pursuance of its aggressive political interests. Indeed, a Russian parliamentary party led by Russia's Deputy Prime Minister had hosted the International Russian Conservative Forum in St. Petersburg earlier in the year, gathering representatives of almost all of Europe's neo-Nazis, extreme nationalists and anti-Semitists.

34. His delegation condemned the Russian Federation's attempt to present itself as a champion of the struggle against Nazism and neo-Nazism, all the while repeating crimes against entire nations. It was deeply concerned about the deteriorating situation in the Russian Federation and its State propaganda of racism, racial discrimination and the superiority of the Russian world, as well as its xenophobia, related intolerance towards other nations and glorification of totalitarian regimes and their leaders. Since the draft resolution was motivated by propaganda, his delegation would vote against it.

35. **Ms. Lucas** (Luxembourg), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine had aligned themselves with her statement. The European Union remained fully committed to the global fight against racism, xenophobia and related intolerance. Contemporary forms of all extremist ideologies, including neo-Nazism, were particularly abhorrent manifestations of racism and xenophobia, and must be condemned as a common and consensual priority for the entire international community. Expressions of such ideologies should be tackled as part of comprehensive efforts to eliminate all forms of racism and xenophobia through effective measures at the national, regional, and international levels, in particular through the full implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

36. The multifaceted roots leading to racism and xenophobia, including prejudice and ignorance, were best addressed through education, awareness-raising and the promotion of dialogue. The European Union continued to believe that all contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance should be addressed in an impartial, balanced and comprehensive way in the draft resolution, with a clear focus on human rights.

37. Each State had a role to play in that regard, in line with international human rights standards, while also ensuring that those who instigated racial or ethnic hatred, or committed racially motivated crimes, were brought to justice. Hence, out of a sense of responsibility towards all victims, past and present, the use of divisive and selective approaches should be avoided, as that diluted the significance of the fight against racism.

38. The European Union welcomed the open, inclusive and transparent informal consultations on the draft resolution, and the fact that some of its proposals had been taken into consideration. It also welcomed the important addition to the text of references to human rights, democracy, the rule of law and good governance, and to the participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the United Nations.

39. Nevertheless, a number of important concerns remained, and several European Union proposals, which had been essential, including compromise language, had been dropped. It was regrettable that the draft resolution continued to underscore issues that were unrelated to combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and did not comprehensively address all contemporary forms of racism. Centring the fight against racism on the teaching of history, monuments, memorials or erroneous references to national liberation movements or other politically motivated issues fell outside the scope of the human rights agenda and aimed to monopolize the fight against Nazism through a one-sided view of history.

40. The European Union paid tribute to the historic role of the allied forces and their sacrifices in the defeat of Nazism during the Second World War, whose end had brought painful divisions in many European countries, occupation and more crimes against humanity rather than freedom. It was thus regrettable that the proposal to adopt a victim-centred approach and to include references to all totalitarian ideologies and regimes had not been taken on board in the draft resolution. Furthermore, education should be addressed in a comprehensive rather than selective manner, and cover the range of racist and totalitarian ideologies in history. There was also concern about language which

addressed too restrictively the fundamental right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly and of association, as contained in articles 19, 21 and 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

41. Concerns also remained with regard to the proposal for States to report on implementation of the present draft resolution in the context of the universal periodic review, which should be a matter for States to decide. Moreover, the request made to the Special Rapporteur to report on selected paragraphs of the draft resolution interfered in his mandate, potentially undermining his independence and comprehensive reporting. Nor should the Special Rapporteur be requested to produce annually two separate reports — one to the General Assembly and one to the Human Rights Council — on the same topic. The European Union believed that there was added value in making the draft resolution biennial.

42. In the context of the ongoing crisis in Ukraine, the European Union was greatly concerned about the main sponsor's attempts to misuse the important goal of fighting neo-Nazism. In that regard, she recalled, inter alia, the European Union's explanation of vote on the same draft resolution from the previous year in connection with the illegal annexation of Crimea.

43. The European Union remained strongly committed to the global fight against all contemporary forms of racism and stood ready to engage constructively and in a spirt of transparency on the above concerns in order to address all manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in a comprehensive and unbiased manner. For all those reasons, the European Union had abstained from the vote.

44. **Ms. Kirianoff Crimmins** (Switzerland), speaking also on behalf of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, said that those countries strongly supported all measures to fight racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including Nazism and neo-Nazism, and considered any form of racial discrimination as a serious human rights violation. They had ratified the relevant international conventions and fully supported the work of United Nations bodies as well as the Council of Europe in that regard. The increase in instances of discrimination, intolerance and extremist violence motivated by anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, Christianophobia and prejudice against persons of other religions and beliefs, as well as the activities of extremist political parties in many countries, were indeed reasons for concern. However, groups or political parties should not be labelled as endorsing Nazism, for reasons of political expediency, when they did not subscribe to that ideology.

45. While the draft resolution contained some important elements which contributed to the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, it was regrettable that changes proposed by other delegations to broaden its scope had not been sufficiently taken on board. In addition, the timeliness of such a draft resolution was questionable, as many current forms of racial discrimination and xenophobia did not have their roots in Nazi ideology. Also, paragraphs which de facto restricted the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly, association, opinion and expression were cause for concern. A careful balance must be struck between freedom of expression and the fight against racism, as reflected in consensual resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and by the Human Rights Council. For those reasons, the four countries had abstained from the vote.

46. **Mr. Sargsyan** (Armenia), speaking on behalf of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), said that the States members of his Organization fully supported such a timely draft resolution, which coincided with the seventieth anniversary of victory in the Second World War and the establishment of the Nuremberg Tribunal. He paid tribute to the memory of millions of lives lost, including of children, in that war. Victory had only been possible through the joint efforts of many peoples to preserve freedom and foster development. Combating the ideology of hatred, regardless of its label, in addition to new threats and challenges, could similarly only be done through the joint efforts of the global community. CSTO member States categorically rejected and strongly condemned targeted attempts to rewrite history and the outcomes of the Second World War. Any attempts to glorify Nazism, as well as aggressive nationalism, were unacceptable. The countries that had overcome fascism must likewise combat neo-fascism, chauvinism and other forms of xenophobia, as well as the popularization of radical nationalism, including among youth. Lastly, the Charter of the United Nations must remain a strong basis for the development of international relations.

47. **Mr. Yao Shaojun** (China) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution. As the

world commemorated the seventieth anniversary of victory over Nazism in the Second World War, which marked the triumph of good over evil, light over darkness, and progressiveness over reactionary forces, past experience should guide the future. To forget history would be tantamount to betrayal: any dilution, denial or glorification of Nazism or its history of aggression was intolerable to all nations and peoples, especially bearing in mind the victims of the Second World War. The international community must be highly vigilant against such words and deeds.

48. **Ms. Pachoumi** (Cyprus) said that her delegation was deeply alarmed by manifestations of neo-Nazism and was committed to fiercely combatting such phenomena through policy and legislation, guided by the position of the European Union. Every effort must be made to provide effective protection from discrimination and hate, including through dialogue, education and awareness-raising.

49. While the openness of the consultations on the draft resolution had been appreciated, the text in question could have been further improved by accommodating concerns relating to paragraphs and references that went beyond the scope of the related agenda item. Nevertheless, what was of utmost importance was the unity within the international community in combatting neo-Nazism and other such phenomena.

50. **Ms. Vraila** (Greece) said that as the Second World War had left Greece, and most other European countries, in ruins, her delegation was naturally concerned about the appearance and rise of extremism in any form, including neo-Nazism, racism, intolerance and xenophobia. The international community should spare no effort to combat those phenomena. Her delegation unreservedly condemned any attempt to glorify or otherwise promote Nazi ideology and all forms of religious and ethnic intolerance.

51. While her delegation appreciated the transparency of negotiations on the draft resolution, some of the elements it contained fell outside the human rights agenda and focused disproportionately on political issues that targeted countries. Those would best be left out, since the matter at hand was of global importance.

(b) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (*continued*) (A/C.3/70/L.61)

Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.61: A global call for concrete action for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

52. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

53. **Mr. Mminele** (South Africa), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that paragraph 22 of the draft resolution should be revised to read: "Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including the progress made on the commemoration of the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, including through the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action". As a result, paragraph 20, which called upon the Human Rights Council to commence preparations for the commemoration of the aforementioned anniversary, would be deleted. That amendment meant that only one report would be presented to the General Assembly, encompassing all the required and necessary inputs, thereby eliminating the cost of preparing two separate reports.

54. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the Russian Federation had joined the sponsors.

55. **The Chair** said that a recorded vote had been requested on draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.61, as orally revised.

56. **Mr. Israeli** (Israel), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, said that throughout history, the Jewish people had fought against racism, and remained committed to that goal. Israel's door remained open in that respect, and it hoped that a new understanding could be achieved in the future, in the light of the current state of affairs. He recalled the process by which General Assembly resolution 3379 (XXX) of 10 November 1975, which determined that Zionism was a form of racism, had been revoked in December 1991. In its original form, that resolution had condemned racism and colonialism, a subject of great

importance to all, and to Africans in particular, and on which consensus could have been achieved. Nevertheless, a group of countries had invoked the use of the automatic majority as a manoeuvre to place Zionism in brackets together with the subjects under discussion.

57. Similarly, while States had gathered at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in Durban in 2001 with the expectation of achieving an outcome dedicated to combating the scourge of racism, that Conference had instead been hijacked by a small group of States for the purpose of defaming, demonizing and delegitimizing the State of Israel. His delegation had been left with no choice but to withdraw from the World Conference in 2001, and to refrain from participating in the Durban Review Conference in 2009, and the 2011 high-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. Rather than promote tolerance, the Durban Conference had been marred with malicious intent. Thirteen years later, Member States had still not found the will or intent to correct the wrongs of the past. For the above reasons, his delegation had no choice but to request a vote, and would vote against the draft resolution.

58. **Ms. Lucas** (Luxembourg), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the European Union remained fully committed to the total elimination of all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including contemporary forms, a goal which had yet to be attained. It also remained firmly committed to the primary objectives and commitments undertaken at the 2001 Durban Conference.

59. Indeed, the phenomenon spared no country or region. As such, racism and its contemporary forms, including those related to extremist ideologies such as neo-Nazism, should be tackled in a balanced and comprehensive way, through effective national, regional and international measures. It was also essential to ratify and fully implement the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

60. The draft resolution before the Committee contained technical updates, but the concerns expressed previously by Member States persisted. It focused excessively on processes, mechanisms, meetings, commemorations and reporting, rather than on specific action on substantive matters.

61. The main issues that had not been adequately addressed in the draft resolution were the following: the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination must remain the basis of all efforts to prevent, combat and eradicate racism, and there was no agreement or evidence to suggest it had gaps or failed to address contemporary forms of racism. Focus should be on the full and effective implementation of that Convention. Also, the independence of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Secretary-General, as well as the institutional balance between the United Nations human rights mechanisms, should be respected at all times. Lastly, it was important to avoid the proliferation and duplication of Durban follow-up mechanisms and processes, or the mandating of new meetings. Resources should be primarily devoted to supporting specific measures to tackle racism on the ground.

62. Efforts to combat the scourge of racism must be united and robust, for the sake of victims, who deserved better than words and processes. The European Union was thus unable to support the draft resolution.

63. **Ms. Phipps** (United States of America) said that her Government was firmly committed to combatting racism and racial discrimination. That commitment was rooted in the saddest chapters of her country's history and reflected in its most cherished values. In spite of the progress made, fighting racism and racial discrimination remained an ongoing challenge. Her Government would continue to work with civil society, international mechanisms and all nations of goodwill to combat those phenomena. In that respect, her delegation welcomed the forthcoming visit of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent to her country in January 2016. It would also continue to enhance its implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which provided comprehensive protection and was the most relevant international framework to address all forms of racial discrimination. In addition, it remained deeply concerned about speech that advocated national, racial or religious hatred, particularly when constituting an incitement to violence, discrimination or hostility. The best antidote to offensive speech was not bans and

punishments, but a combination of robust legal protections against discrimination and hate crimes, proactive Government outreach to racial and religious communities, and the vigorous protection of freedom of expression.

64. Her delegation was concerned that the draft resolution served as a vehicle to prolong the divisions caused by the Durban Conference and its follow-up rather than providing a comprehensive and inclusive way forward. It was also concerned about the additional costs incurred to the regular budget of the United Nations by the request in the draft resolution for reactivation of the operational activities of the group of independent eminent experts. In view of the significant budget constraints in that regard, and Member States' limited ability to provide increasing resources, the Committee should carefully consider the resource implications of such requests before making them. For all those reasons, her delegation would vote against the draft resolution.

65. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.3/70/SR.61, as orally revised.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Congo (Democratic Republic of the), Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea (Democratic People's Republic of), Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Tanzania (United Republic of), Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Israel, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea (Republic of), Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia (The former Yugoslav Republic of), Malta, Republic of Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tonga, Ukraine.

66. *Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.61, as orally revised, was adopted by 128 votes to 11, with 44 abstentions.*

67. **Ms. Kirianoff Crimmins** (Switzerland), speaking in explanation of vote after the voting also on behalf of Iceland, Liechtenstein, New Zealand and Norway, said that it was regrettable that no genuine consultations had been held on the content of the draft resolution, in order to consider other delegations' views on the issue at hand. For example, the draft resolution should focus more on implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and on specific action to be taken at the national level, since it was the primary responsibility of States to combat racism and adopt effective measures as a matter of priority to eliminate all forms of discrimination. The draft resolution led to follow-up activities at the international level that did not contribute effectively to combatting racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. It was deeply regrettable that it referred to an acknowledgment by the Human Rights Council of the existence of procedural and substantive gaps in the International Convention on the Elimination of All

Forms of Racial Discrimination, when no agreement on that issue had in fact been reached within the Council. For those reasons, the group of countries had abstained from the vote.

68. **The Chair** suggested that, in accordance with General Assembly decision 55/488, the Committee should take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of activities of the International Decade for People of African Descent (A/70/339), and the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Global call for concrete action for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action" (A/70/367).

69. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 72: Promotion and protection of human rights (*continued*)

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms (*continued*) (A/C.3/70/L.44)

Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.44: International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

70. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

71. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee), presenting a statement of programme budget implications in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedures of the General Assembly, said that, pursuant to the request in paragraph 12 of the draft resolution, it was understood that all issues relating to the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly, including the date, format, organization and scope, were yet to be determined. Accordingly, in the absence of modalities for the meeting, no estimate could be made regarding the potential cost implications of the requirements for meetings and documentation. Upon the decision on the modalities, format and organization of the meeting, the Secretary-General would submit the costs of the relevant requirements. Furthermore, the date of the meeting would be decided in consultation with the Department of General Assembly and Conference Management.

72. With regard to the words "within existing resources" also in paragraph 12, attention was drawn to the provisions of section IV of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B and subsequent resolutions, the most recent of which was resolution 68/246, in which the General Assembly reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters, and reaffirmed the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. Accordingly, the adoption of draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.44 would not give rise to any financial implications under the programme budget.

73. **Mr. Rabi** (Morocco), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.44 and speaking also on behalf of Argentina and France, invited all other Member States to join the sponsors, who currently numbered 72 in total.

74. Universal ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the recognition of the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances to receive and consider communications from or on behalf of individuals in that context, and the ongoing work of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances would help to significantly expand protection to victims. In that respect, he noted that the Convention had been signed by 94 States and that 51 States had become States parties to it. He called upon all other Member States to consider signing or ratifying the Convention, and to recognize the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances.

75. The main new element in the current draft resolution, compared with previous resolutions on the topic, was a decision to devote one high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly, within existing resources, at its seventy-first session to the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of adoption of the Convention. He hoped that the anniversary could help to raise greater awareness about ratification of the Convention and ensure its effective implementation. Also, with a view to further streamlining the Third Committee's work, the three countries had decided to make the draft resolution biennial, while still ensuring interactive dialogue between the Committee and the Chairs of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances and of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. Lastly, he drew attention to the

request made to the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first and seventy-second sessions a report on the status of the Convention and the implementation of the present resolution.

76. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Austria, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, the Central African Republic, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Eritrea, Estonia, Georgia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Lithuania, Madagascar, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Peru, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland had joined the sponsors.

77. *Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.44 was adopted.*

78. **Ms. Moreno Guerra** (Cuba), speaking on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, recalled the Movement's firm position against the continued selectivity, double standards and politicization reflected in submission of draft resolutions in the Third Committee to address human rights situations in targeted developing countries that were members of the Movement, as had been emphasized at the Movement's sixteenth Summit of Heads of State or Government held in Tehran in August 2012, and at the seventeenth Ministerial Conference held in Algiers in May 2014.

79. In Tehran, the Heads of State or Government of those countries had underscored the key role played by the Human Rights Council's universal periodic review for the consideration of human rights situations in all countries, based on cooperation and constructive dialogue. The selective adoption of country-specific resolutions in the Committee breached the principles of universality, objectivity and non-selectivity in addressing human rights situations, and undermined cooperation as an essential principle for effectively promoting and protecting all universally recognized human rights for all.

80. The Heads of State or Government had also stressed that the universal period review was the main intergovernmental mechanism to review human rights issues at the national level in all countries without distinction. Furthermore, they had reiterated the importance of ensuring the implementation of that review mechanism as an action-oriented, cooperative mechanism, based on objective and reliable information, conducive to interactive dialogue and with full involvement of the countries under review. Such a review should be conducted in an impartial, transparent, non-selective, constructive, non-confrontational and non-politicized manner. They had also urged members of the Non-Aligned Movement to continue to coordinate efforts to support their member States under review.

81. The continued submission of politically motivated resolutions targeting certain States member of the Movement only deepened the feeling of politicizing human rights issues, and had a negative impact on the credibility of the Human Rights Council as the competent authority for considering, substantively assessing and acting on proven human rights violations in all countries, regardless of their level of development or political belonging.

82. For those reasons, Member States should vote against any selective and politicized draft resolutions.

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives (*continued*) (A/C.3/70/L.35)

83. **Ms. Goldrick** (Nicaragua) said that her delegation wished to make a general statement, as it was deeply concerned over the continued submission of country-specific resolutions in the Committee. That approach did not help to effectively promote and protect human rights, but instead lent itself to politicization, selectivity and double standards, and exacerbated confrontations among Member States. In addition, such resolutions singled out developing countries, whereas none had addressed the massive human rights violations being committed against millions of immigrants in developed countries, or the responsibility of the major Powers, which, owing to geopolitical and economic interests, ordered military attacks against civilians, denying them the right to life.

84. She urged developing countries to assert their right to sovereignty and self-determination, and to reject interference in their domestic affairs and the politicization of human rights. Developed countries,

for their part, should collaborate with developing countries with a view to continuing to promote and protect the human rights of their citizens through respectful dialogue, and in a spirit of cooperation.

85. The interrelatedness of all human rights and fundamental freedoms must be strengthened. Since extreme poverty hindered the full and effective enjoyment of human rights, developed countries had a great opportunity before them to help promote and protect human rights in countries by fulfilling their official development aid commitments.

86. Any country that still felt it had the moral standing to point to human rights situations in other countries, after examining their own, should do so respectfully and in cooperation with the Human Rights Council. It was the Council that was in the best position to examine human rights situations in all countries on an equal footing, through its universal periodic review mechanism, based on universality, impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity.

Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.35: Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

87. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

88. **Ms. Lucas** (Luxembourg), speaking on behalf of the European Union, Japan and the other sponsors, said that the draft resolution reflected their serious concerns about the widespread, gross and systematic human rights violations being perpetrated against the people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

89. She read out two oral revisions to the draft resolution. First, in the fourteenth preambular paragraph, the words "on the international community" should be deleted, so that the revised paragraph would read: "Taking note of the United Nations report entitled 'Democratic People's Republic of Korea 2015: Needs and Priorities' and its call to address the critical humanitarian needs in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea". Second, in the fifth line of paragraph 2 (ix), the words "those involving" should be deleted and replaced by "allegations on the possible use of persons with disabilities in", so that the revised paragraph would read: "Violations of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities, especially violations involving the use of collective camps and coercive measures that target the rights of persons with disabilities to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and allegations on the possible use of persons with disabilities in medical testing, forced relocation to rural areas and separation of children with disabilities from their parents".

90. The commission of inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had helped to firmly anchor that issue in the international agenda and in regular discussions in the Human Rights Council and General Assembly. It should soon be discussed in the Security Council as well. In its landmark report, which brought to light the unparalleled gravity, scale and nature of the human rights violations in that country, the commission had underscored the pervasive culture of impunity and lack of accountability of the perpetrators of those violations, and found that a number of those may amount to crimes against humanity. The Committee should thus continue to discuss that country's human rights situation.

91. Accountability for human rights violations was paramount, which is why the draft resolution inter alia expressed dismay at the failure of the authorities of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to bring justice to the victims of such violations.

92. The Government of that country should extend its cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and with the United Nations special procedures and human rights mechanisms, in accordance with the relevant terms of reference, to allow a country visit.

93. The sponsors remained open to continue dialogue with the authorities of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, but emphasized that dialogue and cooperation could not compensate for, replace or be traded against the need for accountability for the widespread, gross and systematic human rights violations which continued to be perpetrated in the country.

94. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Georgia, Honduras, Maldives, the Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Palau, Serbia, Seychelles, Turkey and Ukraine had joined the sponsors.

95. **Mr. Myong** Nam Choe (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that his delegation categorically rejected the draft resolution, which, instead of genuinely seeking to promote and protect human rights, was a

product of the hostile policy of political and military confrontation and conspiracy by the Government of the United States of America, supported by other hostile forces, such as the European Union and Japan, through the repeated submission and adoption of resolutions on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the United Nations human rights mechanisms every year. That policy had sought to eliminate by any means his country's state and social system since its establishment a half century ago.

96. The draft resolution lacked all credibility as an official document of the United Nations and contained distortions, including by so-called "North Korean defectors", and fabrications about alleged forced labour by people from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea who were working under legitimate contracts in other countries. His Government would react in the strongest of terms to any pressure or confrontation aiming to eliminate its socialist system, which its entire population was committed to safeguarding by all means.

97. Despite continuing sanctions by and pressure from hostile forces, his Government had always maintained its policy of ensuring and enhancing the promotion and protection of the human rights of its people, with a view to further improving their livelihoods and prospects for a better future.

98. His Government attached great importance to genuine dialogue and cooperation in the area of international human rights, and had been fulfilling its obligations including through invitations to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the European Union Special Representative for Human Rights, the drafting of reports on its implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and by taking steps to implement the recommendations contained in the outcome of the universal periodic review.

99. Rather than name and shame others, the main sponsors of the draft resolution should refer to the gross human rights violations in their own countries.

100. In order to genuinely further the promotion and protection of human rights, the United Nations must urgently take punitive measures to address current crimes against humanity, such as the invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan and the killing of civilians, racial discrimination in the United States, xenophobia, Islamophobia, the refugee crisis in many parts of Western Europe and the past crimes against humanity committed by Japan. His delegation thus requested a recorded vote and would vote against the draft resolution. He encouraged Member States to do the same and to respect the principles of non-politicization, non-selectivity, objectivity and impartiality, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and in the outcome documents of the Non-Aligned Movement.

101. **Mr. Yoshikawa** (Japan), conveying his appreciation to the 59 sponsors, said that the human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea continued to be critical. The draft resolution was based on the commission of inquiry's findings in its report of February 2014 that provided guiding principles for the international community to respond to the situation in that country. The commission had encouraged the Security Council to take appropriate action to ensure accountability and, in that regard, the Council had discussed the matter in December 2014 for the first time in an official meeting. The serious human rights violations by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that were cited in the draft resolution included the abduction of foreign nationals, a matter which must urgently be resolved since the abductees, including from Japan, and their families were ageing. The adoption of the draft resolution by a majority would send a strong message to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea: its Government should respond in good faith to the concerns raised by the international community and improve its human rights situation, including through the return of abductees as soon as possible.

102. **Ms. Smaila** (Nigeria) recalled that the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had participated in both the first and second cycles of the Human Rights Council's universal periodic review and that one of its ambassadors had met with the relevant special procedure on the situation of human rights in that country in October 2014. The universal period review and Human Rights Council were important procedures that sufficiently covered countries' human rights situations, thus making it unnecessary to do so again in the Committee.

103. **Mr. Agha** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation regretted that the Committee was being used in a way that hindered the efforts of the Human Rights Council. His delegation would thus vote against the draft resolution.

104. **The Chair** said that a recorded vote had been requested on the draft resolution, as orally revised.

105. **Mr. Hassani Nejad Pirkouhi** (Islamic Republic of Iran), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, said that the continued selective adoption of country-specific resolutions, particularly in the Third Committee, constituted political exploitation of the Committee and breached the principles of universality, objectivity and non-selectivity of the United Nations Charter, and in addressing human right issues. That practice also undermined cooperation as the essential principle for effectively promoting and protecting all universally-recognized human rights. The Human Rights Council's universal periodic review provided a mechanism for reviewing human rights situations in all countries on an equal basis. For those reasons, his delegation would vote against the draft resolution.

106. **Mr. Mahmoud** (Egypt) said that the desired objectives on human rights situations throughout the world could be reached through clear and constructive dialogue, exchange of expertise and best practices, such as through the Human Rights Council's universal periodic review. His delegation was committed to the position of the Non-Aligned Movement, rejecting politicization, double standards and the selective use of human rights platforms to address country-specific situations. On principle, his Government would vote against the draft resolution. On the matter of the abductees from Japan, his Government would work bilaterally with that country, or on international platforms, and urged the two parties concerned to undertake constructive dialogue and reach a fair and just solution on that matter.

107. **Ms. Moreno Guerra** (Cuba), speaking on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, said that her delegation would also vote against the draft resolution, as it was against the imposition of selective and politically motivated draft resolutions and mandates. That approach, which was particularly evident vis-à-vis the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and was based on a mandate that had not contributed to respectful and constructive dialogue with that country, opted instead for sanctions and the dangerous and counterproductive involvement of the Security Council in matters outside of its purview that did not in any way undermine international peace and security. The people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had a right to peace, self-determination and development. The universal periodic review was thus the most suitable mechanism: it ensured discussion that was free of politicization or confrontation, and fostered respectful cooperation with the country concerned. Indeed, dialogue should take the place of politicization, and the selective and discriminatory exercise against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea must be discontinued.

108. **Ms. Sabja** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that her delegation maintained its principled position against politically-motivated, country-specific draft resolutions. The universal periodic review was the most appropriate mechanism for addressing human rights situations everywhere, through genuine and constructive dialogue. Cooperation among countries must be strengthened in addressing human rights through constructive dialogue with the participation of the interested party, and based on objectivity, impartiality and non-selectivity. Her delegation would thus vote against the draft resolution and other similar ones in the Committee.

109. **Ms. Belskaya** (Belarus) said that country-specific resolutions were a means to exert political pressure and breached the principles and Charter of the United Nations. The draft resolution on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea undermined the fundamental principle of respect for national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States, and was a clear attempt to exercise selectivity in a main body of the United Nations. Her delegation would thus vote against the draft resolution and urged others to consider the ripple effect of their votes on the United Nations system as a whole.

110. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.35, as orally revised.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Korea (Republic of), Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia (The former Yugoslav

Republic of), Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Republic of Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu.

Against:

Algeria, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burundi, China, Cuba, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Korea (Democratic People's Republic of), Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Oman, Russian Federation, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zimbabwe.

Abstaining:

Angola, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Congo (Democratic Republic of the), Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Libya, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Suriname, Swaziland, Tanzania (United Republic of), Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Yemen, Zambia.

111. *Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.35, as orally revised, was adopted by 112 votes to 19, with 50 abstentions.*

112. **Mr. Poveda Brito** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) speaking in explanation of vote after the voting said that, in line with its principled position, his delegation did not support the adoption of resolutions or the creation of special rapporteurs, representatives or other mechanisms that singled out specific countries in addressing human rights situations. Such selectivity and politicization must be rejected, as it was in breach of the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, undermined the mandate of the Human Rights Council and reflected double standards. Cooperation and dialogue were essential for the effective promotion and protection of human rights. Accordingly, Member States should focus on the positive achievements since the creation of the Human Rights Council and its universal periodic review mechanism.

113. **Mr. Morejón Pazmiño** (Ecuador) reaffirmed his delegation's support for the Human Rights Council's universal periodic review mechanism to address human rights issues all around the world, on an equal footing and using clear and non-politicized procedures. Rather than improve human rights in the countries concerned, country-specific resolutions undermined constructive dialogue among States and international cooperation. His delegation condemned all human rights violations regardless of where they were committed. In the past, whenever the relevant draft resolution in question had been put to a vote, his delegation had abstained, with one exception: its negative vote the previous year, when a proposed amendment to address the inappropriate introduction of references to the Security Council and International Criminal Court in that text had not been kept. His delegation had abstained from the vote on the current draft resolution, but maintained that such references, in paragraphs 10 and 11 of the current text, were inappropriate.

114. **Mr. de Aguiar Patriota** (Brazil) said that while his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution, it welcomed the signs of cooperation that the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had shown vis-à-vis the human rights system, particularly its invitation to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to visit Pyongyang. Positive elements on the issue of abductions, cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms and dismantling of political prison camps would be important steps in the right direction, though as it stood, the human rights situation on the ground remained of grave concern.

115. Irrespective of that reality, however, his delegation was concerned about the growing trend to involve the Security Council in matters that were beyond its prerogatives under the Charter of the United Nations, as the Council was not adequately equipped or representative to deal with the complex issue of human rights in all its dimensions. Human rights should not be addressed exclusively from a security standpoint.

Indeed, the Human Rights Council and General Assembly were better equipped to deal with such issues by virtue of their wider composition and mandate.

116. Referring to the Human Rights Council panel discussion on the human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, he said that panels on human rights situations in specific countries should be seen as an exception to be used only in extraordinary circumstances, so as to avoid any further politicization of the Human Rights Council.

117. Lastly, he drew attention to the negative indirect impact that the unilateral sanctions against the country in question were having on its vulnerable population, as reported by the Secretary-General.

118. **Mr. Yao** Shaojun (China) said that differences in the area of human rights should be addressed through constructive dialogue and cooperation on the basis of equality and mutual respect. His delegation opposed the politicization of human rights issues and the adoption of country-specific human rights resolutions, as well as the exertion of pressure on countries under the pretext of human rights. It also opposed the Security Council's consideration of human rights issues. China had thus voted against the draft resolution.

119. **Ms. Mozolina** (Russian Federation) said that her delegation had repeatedly voiced its disapproval of the practice of submitting politicized and country-specific draft resolutions on human rights situations, as that approach was ineffective and only exacerbated confrontation among Member States. Such resolutions had neither helped to improve human rights situations in the world, nor fostered constructive dialogue with the countries concerned. Instead, the universal periodic review mechanism was sufficiently effective in addressing human rights situations among Member States. Hence, her delegation had voted against the draft resolution, and hoped that such draft resolutions would cease to be submitted for consideration by the Committee.

120. **Ms. Quek** (Singapore) said that her delegation maintained its principled position against country-specific resolutions, which were highly selective and often driven by political rather than human rights considerations. The Human Rights Council was better placed to address human rights issues, through its universal periodic review mechanism. Her delegation would thus abstain on all country-specific resolutions, including the one under consideration. That abstention, however, should not be considered to imply a particular position on the human rights situation in the country concerned, or as condoning the mistreatment of citizens. All Member States must promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

121. **Mr. Nguyen** Duy Thanh (Viet Nam) reasserted his delegation's long-standing position that genuine dialogue and constructive cooperation were the most productive means to address issues of mutual concern, and bring real improvements on the ground. Submitting country-specific resolutions was selective, divisive and counterproductive. His delegation had thus voted against the present draft resolution. It shared the international community's utmost concern with regard to abductions, which it firmly condemned, and extended its sympathies to the victims and their families. The parties concerned must work together to find a satisfactory solution to that issue.

122. **Mr. Thinkeomeuangneua** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that his delegation had voted against the draft resolution because country-specific resolutions were politicized, selective and ineffective in addressing human rights. Human rights issues should instead be addressed on the basis of mutual respect, dialogue and cooperation, and should take into account each country's particular circumstances and historical and cultural background. Human rights issues should not be referred to the Security Council, which was mandated to deal with international peace and security, but rather to the Human Rights Council, under the universal periodic review. Also, efforts to hold non-State parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court to the same level of responsibility and obligation as its States parties contravened the principle of international law as enshrined in the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties of 1969.

123. **Ms. González López** (El Salvador) said that her delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution. Nevertheless, in accordance with her country's Constitution, her delegation could not support paragraph 10 of that text, which provided for referral of the situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the International Criminal Court. Since her country was not a State party to the Rome Statute, its vote in favour of the draft resolution should not be considered as recognition of that Court's jurisdiction. Furthermore, while her country's legislative body was currently considering the ratification of the legal instrument of the Court, the executive body could not accept the Court's jurisdiction.

124. **Mr. Kyaw Tin** (Myanmar) said that his delegation held a long-standing principled position against country-specific resolutions, which ran counter to the principles of objectivity, impartiality, non-selectivity and non-politicization, and undermined Member States' ability to work together for the promotion and protection of human rights everywhere in the world. Such resolutions were polarizing and caused confrontation among Member States. The universal periodic review was the most dependable mechanism to address the human rights situations of all countries on an equal footing. Furthermore, that mechanism dispensed with the need for country-specific resolutions in the Human Rights Council and in the Third Committee. His delegation had thus voted against the draft resolution.

125. **Mr. Myong** Nam Choe (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that his delegation would remain unwavering in its categorical rejection of the politically motivated draft resolution, and would continue to reject any politically motivated and confrontational resolutions on the human rights situation in his country.

126. **Mr. Torbergsen** (Norway) said that his delegation welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution, which contained a strong call for accountability and change, as it continued to be deeply concerned about the grave human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and for its people and their dignity and well-being. Cooperation was needed between the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur and all special procedures of the Human Rights Council in taking meaningful and specific measures to improve the situation on the ground. His delegation strongly believed that that country and its people would benefit immensely from engaging fully with those procedures, including the universal periodic review and measurable actions. He urged the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to follow up on the provisions of the draft resolution without further delay.

127. **Ms. Morton** (Australia), speaking also on behalf of Canada, Iceland and Liechtenstein, said that the adoption of the draft resolution was welcome, noting that the human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea required the Committee's undivided attention. She drew attention to the findings of the commission of inquiry's report of 2014, which had been based on methodically gathered and documented evidence from hundreds of hours of witness testimonies. She also welcomed the efforts of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in that country, and agreed that accountability must be ensured, while continuously seeking engagement with the authorities to bring relief to the people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. That country's regime must engage unconditionally with the international community on its human rights record, including by allowing access to human rights monitors and United Nations special procedure mandate holders, and allowing the United Nations and other actors unimpeded access to deliver humanitarian aid to those most in need.

128. Perpetrators of alleged crimes against humanity committed in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea must be held to account, starting with those bearing the greatest responsibility. Likewise, accountability measures must be laid down firmly and robustly by the international community, including through the possible referral of the situation to the International Criminal Court by the Security Council, in addition to other avenues to be explored to fight impunity.

129. The fact that the situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had been placed on the Security Council's agenda for the first time in December 2014 had been a step in the right direction, although it was regrettable that there had been no follow-up on that since. She urged the Security Council to use its leverage and take credible action in the form of further discussions in various formats, leading to concrete outcomes and decisions. The situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was far too serious for the Council to remain a bystander.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

United Nations A/C.3/70/SR.51

General Assembly
Seventieth session
Official Records

Distr.: General
15 January 2016

Original: English

Third Committee

Summary record of the 51st meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 19 November 2015, at 3 p.m.

Chair: **Mr. Hilale** .... **(Morocco)**

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Agenda item 72: Promotion and protection of human rights (*continued*)

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives (*continued*)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 72: Promotion and protection of human rights (*continued*)

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives (*continued*) (A/C.3/70/L.45, A/C.3/70/L.47 and A/C.3/70/L.67)

Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.45: Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

1. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

2. **Mr. Grant** (Canada) said that the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran had made repeated commitments to eliminate discrimination against women and members of ethnic minorities and to give more space to freedom of expression and opinion. Although those were steps in the right direction, no concrete measures had yet been taken to achieve those aims. In the five years since the Islamic Republic of Iran had completed the first cycle of the universal periodic review, it had implemented completely or partially only 28 per cent of the recommendations accepted.

3. Given the gravity and persistence of human rights violations in the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as the lack of true cooperation with international human rights mechanisms, it was all the more urgent for the General Assembly to express its concern about the human rights situation in the country. The present draft resolution enabled the international community to make considerable improvements to the situation and provided extremely necessary assistance for human rights defenders, who considered it to be an essential tool for the promotion of respect for human rights in the country. The draft resolution was fact-based and balanced, welcoming areas where improvements had been made and deploring areas where many human rights violations continued. It was also forward-looking, calling on the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to enact meaningful changes to improve the human rights situation, including by eliminating discriminatory requirements on who could stand for elections and restrictions on freedom of expression during elections.

4. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Albania, New Zealand, Palau and Vanuatu had joined the list of sponsors.

5. **Ms. Vraila** (Greece) said that her delegation wished to withdraw its sponsorship of the draft resolution.

6. **Mr. Dehghani** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the draft resolution marked a significant setback for the United Nations human rights mechanisms and represented a selective and politicized distortion of facts. While the entire international community had welcomed the conclusion of the nuclear deal, which had been the result of his country's policy of constructive engagement with the world, Canada had continued its unreasonably hostile policy against the Islamic Republic of Iran through baseless speculation in a draft resolution that misled the international community about the true situation of human rights in the region.

7. The world was facing serious threats to the most fundamental human rights by violent extremists. It was highly alarming and telling that many of the new recruits of terrorist groups had been born and raised in countries that were sponsoring the draft resolution, thus manifesting in the most absurd fashion their frustration with marginalization and unabated xenophobic tendencies in those countries. Instead of misguided and politically charged attempts to widen that gap, which had been the approach of the previous Government of Canada, the common global threat of extremism and violence must be combatted by all. The new Government of Canada, on the basis of the pledges it had made during its election campaign, should depart from the outdated policy of politicizing human rights and engage in dialogue instead of confrontation.

8. His Government had implemented substantive measures since assuming office. It continued to fulfil its obligations under the universal periodic review mechanism, was pushing a citizen's charter of rights through the legislative body and had pronounced its readiness to engage in a genuine human rights dialogue with interested countries. It had successfully presented its national report on the implementation of recommendations accepted during the first cycle of the universal periodic review at the twentieth session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review in October 2014. The majority of those recommendations had been accepted by his country and it had started implementing the recommendations accepted in the second cycle. His Government was ready to engage in a serious, constructive and results-oriented dialogue on human rights, based on good faith

and mutual respect. The draft resolution simply did not serve that purpose.

9. **The Chair** said that a recorded vote had been requested on the draft resolution.

Statements made in explanation of vote before the voting

10. **Mr. Qassem Agha** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that adoption of the draft resolution on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran would undermine the credibility of the political and legal terms of reference in the area of international relations, particularly given the fact that international consensus had already been reached on a mechanism for dealing with human rights issues, namely the universal periodic review of the Human Rights Council. As a position of principle, his delegation categorically rejected the selective use of human rights issues to interfere in other States' domestic affairs under the pretext of humanitarian or legal considerations. Such an approach was contrary to the provisions of the United Nations Charter, which enshrined the principle of the equality and sovereignty of all Member States. Syria would therefore vote against the draft resolution.

11. **Mr. Choe** Myong Nam (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that his delegation consistently maintained the principled position of rejecting all politically motivated, confrontational and divisive country-specific resolutions. The freedom of States to maintain and develop economic and political systems of their own choice must be respected, as provided for in the Charter of the United Nations. His delegation was against all politically motivated actions that infringed upon the sovereignty and integrity of the countries concerned. Interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign State under the guise of human rights only served to increase confrontation and, as such, must be rejected by all means. For that reason, his delegation would vote against the draft resolution.

12. **Ms. Smaila** (Nigeria) said that country-specific resolutions could be invoked in cases of emergency or exceptional situations of continuous, grave and systematic violations of human rights. Such resolutions should be discussed in relation to sexual violence, genocide, ethnic cleansing, systematic exclusion of segments of societies from participation in governance and the full enjoyment of equal rights in their own countries, denial of access to economic resources and benefits, racial or ethnic discrimination and confirmed cases of torture and other degrading treatment. Her delegation underscored the importance of thematic mandate holders, whose activities should be guided by the Code of Conduct adopted in the Human Rights Council. The universal periodic review remained the reputable and accepted mechanism for Governments to constructively engage with the Human Rights Council and prove their human rights credentials to the rest of world.

13. There had been a noticeable determination on the part of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to address issues brought to its attention. Her delegation urged the Government to continue with its laudable cooperation with the United Nations, especially the Human Rights Council, towards addressing specific human rights cases. Assurances received from the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran made her delegation hopeful that any outstanding cases related to the rights of ethnic minorities and women would be treated fairly and expeditiously.

14. **Mr. Morejón Pazmiño** (Ecuador) said that his country fully supported the work of the Human Rights Council, the body empowered to examine human rights situations, in particular through its universal periodic review, which was the appropriate mechanism for achieving progress throughout the world while respecting the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity, equal treatment and non-selectivity. Country-specific resolutions did nothing to improve the human rights situations in the countries concerned and were detrimental to relations between States, constructive dialogue and international cooperation. His delegation therefore urged all Member States to put an end to such practices, which were the very practices that had led to the dissolution of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. His Government rejected the continued harassment of certain developing countries for political reasons and would therefore vote against the draft resolution.

15. **Ms. Garcia Gutierrez** (Costa Rica) said that her delegation had voted in favour of country-specific resolutions out of concern for the human rights situations in those countries. In that regard, Costa Rica believed that all issues to be considered by States should be assessed on their substantive merits, including steps taken by countries to improve their human rights situations. Nevertheless, the Human Rights Council was the competent authority in that area and a more appropriate forum than the Committee for addressing serious cases that required country-

specific consideration. Strengthening the Council's universal periodic review mechanism was the only way to foster the entity's role in promoting and protecting human rights around the world. However, that must not divert the Committee's attention from addressing particularly critical situations in a country-specific manner when necessary. Constructive dialogue and cooperation must continue to guide the road to effective promotion and protection of human rights. She called upon all States to commit to those efforts.

16. **Ms. Moreno Guerra** (Cuba) said that her delegation would vote against the draft resolution and maintained a principled position against country-specific resolutions, which were based on a punitive and confrontational approach to the issue of human rights. The establishment of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran and the continued inclusion of that issue in the agenda were politically motivated and did not stem from genuine concern or interest in cooperating with that country. Her delegation objected to the manipulation of human rights to advance a political agenda, to discredit Governments and to attempt to justify strategies aimed at destabilizing some of those Governments. Any mandate imposed on the basis of politicization and double standards was destined to fail. She called on States to promote respectful and constructive dialogue with the Islamic Republic of Iran based on collaboration and the exchange of good practices, which was the only way to successfully address the human rights challenges facing the international community.

17. **Ms. Belskaya** (Belarus) said that her country would vote against the draft resolution, which was a clear example of interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign State and the exertion of political pressure on the Government of that country. The draft resolution ignored the real human rights situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran, did not take into account information presented by the Government to United Nations human rights bodies and contained biased assessments of the situation in the country, including in relation to the universal periodic review. Country-specific resolutions undermined the universal periodic review mechanism and called into question its results. They also continued to escalate confrontation in the discussion of legal situations within the Human Rights Council and its main bodies.

18. **Ms. Sabja** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that her delegation would vote against the draft resolution. Country-specific resolutions undermined the sovereignty of States, hindered cooperation and weakened the universal periodic review mechanism, which incorporated the principles of non-selectivity, universality, impartiality, objectivity and respect for national sovereignty. Her Government remained steadfast in its opposition to politicized country-specific resolutions that selectively targeted countries of the South.

19. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.45.*

In favour:

Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Sudan, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Vanuatu.

Against:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cambodia, China, Comoros, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zimbabwe.

Abstaining:

Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahrain, Benin, Bhutan, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Libya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Yemen, Zambia.

20. *Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.45 was adopted by 76 votes to 35, with 68 abstentions.*

21. **Mr. de Aguiar Patriota** (Brazil) said that his delegation had abstained from the vote. Although it recognized the efforts of Canada to streamline the text, the draft resolution still failed to appropriately reflect the efforts of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to improve the human rights situation in the country. Nevertheless, the rate of executions reportedly still taking place there was a matter of extreme concern, in particular the application of the death penalty to crimes that could not be characterized as the gravest under international human rights law. A moratorium on the use of the death penalty should be considered with a view to its abolition.

22. Brazil remained equally concerned by the human rights situation of women and by violations of the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and association. The human rights of minorities, especially religious minorities, must be respected, including those not officially recognized by the Government, such as the Baha'i.

23. Recent expressions of the Iranian Government's willingness to engage with the international human rights system should be acknowledged and encouraged by the international community, and such engagement must be strengthened. Its acceptance of most recommendations issued during the universal periodic review should be welcomed, including the invitations extended to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the right to food to visit the country.

24. International efforts to engage the Islamic Republic of Iran and support human rights in the country would be better served by the adoption of a more constructive tone that sought to break with the unfruitful path of confrontation. After the historic diplomatic breakthrough in 2015, the international community had a sound basis to renew its investment in diplomacy and dialogue. In that regard, his country had established a bilateral mechanism for discussing human rights issues between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Brazil.

25. **Mr. Saito** (Japan) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution. Japan welcomed the policy of the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran to address the human rights situation in the country as a matter of priority and recognized the cooperative engagement from the Iranian side in the bilateral human rights dialogues that took place periodically between Japan and Iran. As the Iranian Government continued to develop an improved relationship with the international community, his Government expected to see such efforts in mutual confidence-building translated into concrete progress in the measures and commitments to improve the human rights situation in the country. For those reasons, Japan had supported the draft resolution but had not joined the sponsors. It would continue to engage positively in dialogue and cooperate with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

26. **Mr. Coloma Grimberg** (Chile) said that the promotion and protection of human rights and collaboration with the multilateral human rights system were key elements of his country's foreign policy. In the case of Iran, his Government valued the agreement made by the Iranian authorities to meet with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran in Geneva for the first time and hoped that the Special Rapporteur would be invited to visit the country soon. It was encouraging to note the efforts made by President Hassan Rouhani to improve the situation in his country and the significant agreement on Iran's nuclear programme.

27. His Government was against the use of capital punishment and supported a universal moratorium on the death penalty. For that reason, it was concerned

about the extensive and repeated use of that measure throughout the world. According to the Special Rapporteur, at least 520 people had been executed in Iran in the first half of 2015, and it was not clear whether they had benefited from due process and impartiality before their execution; a sentence that, once applied, was irreversible.

28. The Islamic Republic of Iran should increase cooperation with human rights mechanisms and carefully consider the recommendations from the universal periodic review. Chile would continue to analyse the situation in Iran with full impartiality in order to re-evaluate its position in the future.

29. **Mr. Poveda Brito** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that his delegation would like to reiterate its principled position regarding country-specific resolutions and special rapporteurs. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela rejected the politically motivated and selective nature of those mechanisms, which flagrantly violated the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations as well as the principles of universality, objectivity and non-selectivity and were a clear example of the use of double standards. Cooperation and dialogue were the most essential principles for the effective promotion and protection of human rights. For that reason, his delegation supported the ongoing appeals made by the Non-Aligned Movement on the issue. Venezuela once again urged the international community to continue the progress made by the Human Rights Council and to prioritize the universal periodic review process and take a collaborative approach to the human rights issue. He called for an end to the selective adoption of country-specific resolutions, which weakened human rights mechanisms.

30. **Mr. Yao** Shaojun (China) said that it was China's consistent position that any differences in the area of human rights should be addressed through constructive cooperation and dialogue on an equal footing and on the basis of mutual respect. China was opposed to politicizing and exploiting the human rights issue to pressurize other countries and objected to country-specific human rights resolutions. His delegation had therefore voted against the draft resolution. It was incumbent upon the international community to provide the Islamic Republic of Iran with practical and constructive assistance rather than single-mindedly hurling accusations and exerting pressure through country-specific resolutions.

31. **Ms. Mozolina** (Russian Federation) said that her delegation had voted against the draft resolution and expressed surprise at the obstinacy with which the authors had brought it before the Third Committee for consideration each year. The Russian Federation was against the biased and politicized practice of submitting draft resolutions on the human rights situation in individual countries. Such draft resolutions should not be submitted to the Committee in future and the human rights situations in individual countries should be examined exclusively through the universal periodic review.

32. **Ms. del Águila Castillo** (Guatemala) said that her delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution. Guatemala condemned the human rights violations in Iran and agreed with the concerns expressed in the most recent report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran (A/70/411). It was regrettable however that, despite concrete proposal by several delegations, the draft resolution had disregarded the recent and historic agreement reached on the Iranian nuclear programme. Although that agreement did not make specific references to human rights, the lifting of sanctions provided for by it would impact the economic, social and political rights of Iranians. Country-specific resolutions should be objective, avoid bias and reflect a balance between concern for the human rights situation in the country and recognition of the efforts made by the respective Government. Guatemala therefore acknowledged the impact of that significant agreement. Nevertheless, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran must demonstrate to the international community in practical and tangible ways its readiness to continue to cooperate with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, especially by authorizing visits from the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, including the Special Rapporteur.

33. **Mr. Kyaw Tin** (Myanmar) said that his delegation had voted against the draft resolution, in line with Myanmar's principled position against country-specific resolutions. Such resolutions undermined one of the purposes of the United Nations: to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination. Furthermore, they often intervened in matters essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of sovereign States and ran counter to the principles of

objectivity, impartiality and non-politicization. The universal periodic review was the least controversial and most dependable process for examining and improving all human rights situations in the world. The time had come to put an end to country-specific resolutions in the Third Committee and in the Human Rights Council.

34. **Mr. Ríos Sánchez** (Mexico) said that the reports of the Special Rapporteur and the Secretary-General noted that serious human rights challenges persisted in the Islamic Republic of Iran, in particular the application of the death penalty, which his country unequivocally opposed. Nevertheless, there had been important developments over the last year which had brought new opportunities to strengthen the work of the Iranian Government with the international community and focus on the legitimate human rights concerns, which Mexico shared.

35. Beyond a punitive approach, priority should be given to cooperation, technical assistance and capacity-building, which would have a greater impact and create better opportunities for strengthening effective cooperation between the Iranian Government and the United Nations. With that in mind, Mexico had abstained from the vote on the draft resolution. However, that did not mean that Mexico was not concerned by the persistent violations of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

36. Mexico noted the commitment made by the Iranian authorities to be more open with the international human rights system. In the short-term, concrete steps must be taken towards strengthening Iran's cooperation with the various specialized mechanisms.

37. **Mr. Shin** Dong Ik (Republic of Korea) said that his delegation recognized the progress made by the Iranian Government since the adoption of last year's resolution, taking note in particular of its active participation in the second cycle of the universal periodic review and how it had mapped out services for victims of domestic violence and increased penalties for perpetrators of violence against women. It also noted with interest the proposed changes to legislation and administration, including a new code of criminal procedure. However, further progress needed to be made to meet the aspirations of the international community.

38. **Ms. Vraila** (Greece) said that although her delegation did not fully agree with all elements included in the draft resolution, it had aligned itself with the general position of the European Union and had therefore voted in favour of the draft resolution.

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39. **The Chair** drew the attention to the statement of programme budget implications contained in document A/C.3/70/L.67.

40. **Mr. Al-Mouallimi** (Saudi Arabia), presenting the draft resolution on behalf of its sponsors, said that, over the previous 12 months, the human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic had continued to deteriorate. More than 250,000 Syrians had been killed in the conflict, more than 4 million refugees had left the country and more than 7.5 million had been displaced. Nearly 5 million people required humanitarian assistance. The Syrian authorities had continued to perpetrate atrocities, using various methods, including barrel bombs, heavy weaponry and chemical weapons, in flagrant violation of international human rights and humanitarian law. Many of those atrocities amounted to war crimes and crimes against humanity. Furthermore, foreign fighters were flocking to join the ranks of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and other terrorist organizations, while other militias and groups had allied themselves with the regime. All parties to the conflict had committed the most heinous human rights violations. Instead of more troops or bombs, Syria needed capable leaders who could foster reconciliation among its people and provide security, shelter, health care and food for all.

41. The draft resolution, which addressed an unprecedented human rights situation, included calls for all perpetrators of human rights violations to be held accountable for their crimes, and for a Syrian-led political process leading to a political transition that met Syrians' legitimate aspirations.

42. The draft resolution was in fact situation-specific, rather than country-specific as some delegation claimed. It explicitly condemned terrorism, terrorist organizations and foreign terrorist fighters but drew on United Nations reports, including the most recent report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, which had concluded that the Syrian regime was responsible for most acts of violence, murder and displacement.

43. The draft resolution also reaffirmed the international community's respect for the sovereignty

and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic, and called for further efforts to uphold human rights in Syria and address the humanitarian aspects of the crisis, which would continue until the parties to the conflict reached a political solution in accordance with the Geneva communiqué.

44. Rather that addressing the substance of the issues contained in the draft resolution, the Syrian regime would endeavour to focus discussions on secondary issues involving the sponsors. The delegation of Saudi Arabia stood ready to refute all baseless allegations made against it, or against any of the other sponsors, by the representative of Syria. Any attempt to divert attention from the draft resolution on the human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic would prove unsuccessful, however, when television footage and photographs of dead Syrian children on the shores of the Mediterranean were still fresh in everyone's mind. Saudi Arabia urged delegations to listen to their consciences and to stand by the Syrian people by voting in favour of the draft resolution.

45. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Botswana, Iceland, Montenegro, Oman and Ukraine had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

46. **Ms. Vraila** (Greece) said that her delegation wished to withdraw its sponsorship of the draft resolution.

47. **Mr. Ja'afari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation aligned itself with the statements delivered by the representatives of Cuba and the Islamic Republic of Iran, in which they had underscored their principled rejection of country-specific resolutions.

48. His delegation deeply regretted attempts by certain delegations, including the delegations of certain Non-Aligned Movement members, to use the Committee to further their interventionist and narrow political agendas, in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law. Undermining the Human Rights Council, their conduct impeded the Committee from fulfilling its mandate to achieve social and humanitarian objectives, particularly in the area of human rights.

49. The Syrian Government reiterated its principled commitment to promoting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all Syrians and believed that the universal periodic review of the Human Rights Council was the most appropriate mechanism for addressing human rights issues.

50. The draft resolution submitted by Saudi Arabia and its allies was paradoxical, given that country's appalling human rights record, not only against foreign workers in the country, but also against its own citizens. It would have been more appropriate for the Committee to consider the Saudi Arabian human rights record. Saudi Arabia was, moreover, the main sponsor, supporter and financer of armed terrorist groups in Syria, was exacerbating the ongoing crisis in the country and was actively working to prevent a peaceful political resolution to the conflict by Syrians themselves, in accordance with the Geneva communiqué and relevant Security Council resolutions. Saudi Arabia or its citizens had perpetrated or sponsored acts of terrorism around the world, including in Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, France and the United States, in a clear demonstration of the danger of entrusting excessive wealth to ignorant hands. The Saudi family regime, which had usurped power in the Arabian Peninsula, was untrustworthy and had no respect for the sanctity of Islam. Saudi Arabia would never be accepted as a civilized country until it upheld the fundamental human rights of its citizens, rather than flogging and decapitating them in its public squares, persecuting them for their beliefs and imprisoning them merely for writing a poem critical of their Government.

51. While the Syrian Government was striving to combat terrorism on behalf of the entire world, numerous terrorist groups, including ISIL and the Nusra Front, were receiving support from Saudi Arabia and its allies so that they could continue to perpetrate atrocities in Syria. Furthermore, according to a recently published article in a French newspaper, donations from Arabian Gulf States comprised some 10 per cent of the almost 3 billion euros that ISIL had received in 2015. The Governments of Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Turkey also continued to facilitate the movement of foreign terrorist fighters and arms into Syrian territory with the goal of overthrowing the legitimate Syrian Government. Meanwhile, those States were complicit in and tacitly supported the Israeli occupation of Arab lands and, as stated by Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, Saudi Arabia and Israel were two countries that continued to speak with one voice.

52. The ruling *takfirist* family in Saudi Arabia was in no position to lecture Syria or any other country on democracy and human rights, particularly when it continued to deny its own people their right to participate in the country's legislature and parliament and prohibited women from riding bicycles or travelling without a male escort. It was inconceivable that Saudi Arabia would implement the provisions of the draft resolution on human rights within its own borders. The fact that Qatar and Saudi Arabia had sponsored the draft resolution was particularly ironic given that those countries steadfastly refused to comply with the Committee's annual resolution on global efforts to eliminate racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. How could the Committee adopt those noble resolutions, while also adopting a resolution against Syrian men, women and children that contained provisions that were the very embodiment of hatred and extremism? The proposed draft resolution would also undermine efforts by Mr. de Mistura, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, to resolve the conflict.

53. It would take considerable time to address the numerous lies, inaccuracies and misleading information contained in the draft resolution. The Syrian delegation was particularly concerned, however, that the draft resolution had falsely attributed certain statements to the Special Envoy. Prior to the vote, the Secretary of the Committee should confirm the veracity of the information contained in paragraph 19 and should inform the Committee when and where the Special Envoy had delivered the statements mentioned in that paragraph.

54. According to the Director of the French Secret Services, the Syrian authorities had, two years previously, provided a list of French terrorists fighting in Syria to the Prime Minister of France, whose steadfast refusal to investigate the individuals on that list or engage with the Syrian authorities had resulted in the Paris attacks. Tens of thousands more terrorists from the Arabian Gulf and Europe were now being sent to Syria to commit atrocities.

55. Quoting poignant verses from a poem, he reminded the Committee that certain regimes had made a pact with the devil and that the time had come for States to listen to their consciences and bring to an end the misery that those regimes had inflicted on the people in the region.

56. **Mr. Dehghani** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that, in addition to its unfair and politically motivated approach to human rights issues in the Syrian Arab Republic, the draft resolution contained troubling provisions that were unprecedented in a human rights resolution. If adopted, it would run counter to the basic principles of international law.

57. The content of paragraph 14 was particularly unacceptable because it condemned two forces that were part of the regular armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran which had been deployed in the Syrian Arab Republic on an exclusively advisory basis at the formal invitation of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and were resisting the terrorist onslaught in the country. Moreover, the paragraph denied the right of a Member State to establish peace and order on its territory, including through requesting assistance, and took an adverse and unwarranted position on the actions by the regular army of a sovereign Member State.

58. Paragraphs 14 and 16 sinisterly lumped together, falsely labelled and condemned those who were in the Syrian Arab Republic at the invitation of the Government to assist its legitimate fight against ISIL, the Nusra Front and their affiliates. The accusations levelled in those two paragraphs, apart from being totally baseless, had nothing to do with the mandate of the Third Committee, nor were they compatible with the title of a draft resolution which purported to deal with human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic. Their incorporation into the draft resolution was tantamount to a kind of revenge against those who had so far been the most effective force on the ground against terrorism and violent extremism. If not for their genuine and resolute fight against terrorism, more of the Middle East would by now have fallen under the black flag of ISIL.

59. Parties with a narrow agenda must not be allowed to have their way: their baseless accusations and absolute condemnation would only poison the negotiating environment, which could ruin the prospects for finding a way out of the current impasse in the Syrian Arab Republic.

60. **Mr. Choe Myong Nam** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) reiterated his delegation's principled position against all country-specific resolutions submitted for consideration without the consent of the countries concerned. The human rights

situations of individual countries must be discussed and resolved in an atmosphere of genuine and constructive dialogue and cooperation, respecting the sovereignty, integrity, peace and stability of the countries concerned and contributing to real improvements in those countries. The most useful mechanism for the discussion of country-specific issues was the universal periodic review. For that reason, his delegation would vote against the draft resolution.

61. **Ms. Smaila** (Nigeria) said that country-specific resolutions should not be resorted to as a means of punishment or to score political points. They should be applied as redemptive measures, be invoked and applied sparingly, on a case-by-case basis, and must fully respect the independence, sovereignty and integrity of the countries in question. As far as practicable, they should also be time-specific and contain deadlines.

62. In the case of the Syrian Arab Republic where two or more parties were obviously involved in the conflict, her delegation found it difficult that only one side was being singled out, condemned and held to account. All sides must bear responsibility for their actions. However, the current wording of the draft resolution might bolster one side of the conflict and render the other intransigent, which could make the attainment of peace elusive.

63. Only a lasting political solution led by the Syrian people, free of outside pressure and interference, would be successful. Her delegation called on all sides of the Syrian conflict to lay down their arms and seek a just and peaceful settlement of their differences in order to find lasting peace and spare their country further bloodshed, misery and destruction.

64. **Ms. Sison** (United States of America) said that her delegation strongly supported the draft resolution and called on all delegations to vote in favour of it. As documented in the numerous reports by the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, the Assad regime, associated militias and ISIL were committing extensive and ongoing violations and abuses, which must be forcefully condemned and for which accountability must be sought. The United States echoed the strong condemnation expressed by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria regarding the Assad regime's destructive bombing across the Syrian Arab Republic. The international community must collectively support the victims of the Assad regime, who were often arbitrarily imprisoned, subjected to torture, sexual violence and inhumane conditions, denied fair trials, executed and forcibly disappeared.

65. The United States reiterated its call for an immediate end to all violations and abuses of human rights and international humanitarian law, especially the egregious, widespread and continued violations committed by the Assad regime. It urged continued support for the Special Envoy's efforts to promote a political transition that led to a future that fulfilled the aspirations of the Syrian people for peace, freedom and dignity. The international community must work together to end the atrocities, lay a foundation for justice and build sustainable peace in the Syrian Arab Republic.

66. **Mr. Çevik** (Turkey) said that the crisis in Syria, which had started with the violent oppression by the Syrian regime of the democratic aspirations and the legitimate demands of the Syrian people, continued to threaten regional and international peace and security. The human rights of the Syrian people were being violated with increasing severity and impunity and, although the draft resolution could not, by itself, alleviate the immense suffering of the Syrian people, it would send a firm message that the international community refused to remain silent in the face of the gross human rights violations taking place in Syria and would hold the perpetrators accountable.

67. Steadfast in its support for the Syrian people, the Turkish delegation urged all delegations to vote in favour of the draft resolution. Categorically rejecting the baseless allegations made against his country by the representative of Syria, he emphasized that Turkey would continue to engage with all relevant international organizations, including the United Nations, in a transparent manner in order to provide assistance to Syrians.

68. **Ms. Al-Thani** (Qatar) said that the repercussions of the deteriorating humanitarian and human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic were being felt throughout the region. It was therefore incumbent on the General Assembly to adopt a further resolution on the grave human rights violations being perpetrated against the Syrian people.

69. The draft resolution before the Committee was balanced, objective and anchored in the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. It

referred to all parties that had committed human rights violations in Syria but underscored that most of those violations had been perpetrated by the Syrian regime.

70. The draft resolution highlighted the impact of the violence on women and children, and called for humanitarian assistance to be provided to those most in need. Moreover, it condemned the terrorist groups and foreign terrorist fighters operating in Syria and called for their immediate withdrawal.

71. It also addressed the Syrian refugee crisis, reaffirmed the need for a political solution that met the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people and underscored the important role that Syrian women must be allowed to play in the country's future.

72. Voting in support of the draft resolution would send a clear message to the perpetrators of human rights violations in Syria that the international community would not tolerate their actions.

73. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee), responding to the question posed earlier by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, said that the Secretariat was not in a position to either confirm or deny that the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria had made statements communicating the information contained in paragraph 19 of the draft resolution. Neither could it provide details of when and where those statements were purportedly made. He noted, however, that the draft resolution provided no references for the statements attributed to the Special Envoy, suggesting that those statements had been delivered in an informal context rather than in a formal meeting, such as a meeting of the Security Council or General Assembly.

74. **Mr. Al-Mouallimi** (Saudi Arabia) said that Mr. de Mistura, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, had made the comments in question in a press statement that he had delivered in Geneva, Switzerland on 30 May 2015. Instead of addressing the issues raised in the draft resolution, the delegate of the Syrian Arab Republic had, once again, levelled baseless allegations against Saudi Arabia and other countries. Moreover, the verses of poetry he had quoted were highly inappropriate and provided a clear insight into the nature of his character.

75. **Mr. Ja'afari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the verses of poetry that he had recited earlier had been written by a Saudi poet. The Saudi representative's negative reaction to that poem had revealed his true nature.

76. With regard to paragraph 19 of the draft resolution, the Syrian delegation was well aware of the words spoken by Mr. de Mistura in Geneva on 30 May 2015 in Geneva: they had not been accurately reflected in that paragraph and it was indeed telling that the Secretariat was unable to confirm their veracity. Paragraph 19 misrepresented the mandate of the Special Envoy, whose efforts were deeply appreciated by the Syrian Government, and was personally insulting to him. Member States should refuse to adopt any draft resolution that cited manipulated statements that had been falsely attributed to the Special Envoy.

77. The Syrian Arab Republic had serious concerns about the draft resolution as a whole and was keenly aware of the true motives of its sponsors, who had no interest in alleviating the plight of the Syrian people and no desire to see the Syrian crisis resolved. Instead, by encouraging terrorists from all over the world to come to Syria to commit atrocities, the sponsors had Syrian blood on their hands. Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Turkey were seeking to achieve their cheap political objectives and to undermine the mandate of Mr. de Mistura.

78. He strongly urged all Member States to vote against the draft resolution. Those States that were unable to do so because they were being blackmailed financially by the Saudi and Qatari regimes and by certain powerful countries should abstain or to leave the room prior to the vote. The real objectives and true intentions of the sponsors must be exposed.

79. **The Chair** said that a recorded vote had been requested on draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.47.

Statements made in explanation of vote before the voting

80. **Mr Bessedik** (Algeria) said that human rights issues should be dealt with by the Human Rights Council, which had been established to avoid politicization and selectivity in human rights issues, especially under the universal periodic review process. Human rights concerns must be dealt with in a transparent and equitable manner, and through constructive dialogue. Bringing country-specific human rights issues to the attention of the General Assembly undermined the spirit and purposes of that Council.

81. Recent terrorist attacks, including in France, Lebanon, Nigeria and Turkey, underscored the need for

concerted international efforts to combat acts of terrorism, the most vicious of human rights violations. While the primary responsibility for upholding human rights lay with States' central authorities, the international community must encourage all steps to end the tragedy in Syria, including confidence-building measures that would support the political process.

82. As was the case with other country-specific resolutions on human rights, the draft resolution on the Syrian Arab Republic was counterproductive, and the Algerian delegation would therefore be compelled to vote against it.

83. **Ms. Moreno Guerra** (Cuba) said that her delegation would vote against the draft resolution, owing to its punitive nature and its disregard for the interests and positions of the country concerned. The international community must set aside interventionist agendas and calls for regime change and seek political solutions that would consider the interests and aspirations of the Syrian people, which could not be achieved with resolutions attempting to undermine the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Syria.

84. Her delegation advocated for a peaceful and negotiated solution to the crisis and urged the Third Committee to contribute to that effort, not by means of condemnation and interventionist demands, but rather by fostering cooperation in full respect for the sovereignty of the Syrian State. To achieve success, the international community must once and for all abandon politically motivated and selective practices, such as the current draft resolution, which only unnecessarily delayed a solution.

85. **Ms. Belskaya** (Belarus) reiterated her delegation's principled position against the adoption of country-specific resolutions, which were used to interfere in the internal affairs of sovereign States and exert pressure on Governments. The draft resolution on the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic undermined such fundamental principles as respect for national sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs; furthermore, it exerted pressure on only one side of the protracted and bloody conflict.

86. Only a settlement of the conflict would promote real respect for human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic, whereas the ongoing conflict served to enflame the extremist mood and fuel the growth of terrorism. In that context, the country-specific resolution before the Committee further encouraged the logic of confrontation as a human rights policy imperative. Belarus could not support such action and would vote against the draft resolution.

87. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.47.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Belgium, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Latvia, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Yemen.

Against:

Algeria, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burundi, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zimbabwe.

Abstaining:

Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belize, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican

Republic, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Mali, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Philippines, Saint Lucia, Singapore, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Zambia.

88. *Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.47 was adopted by 115 votes to 15, with 51 abstentions.*

89. **Mr. Dehghani** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the draft resolution was a disservice to the Third Committee, contravened the basic principles of international law and did nothing but reward violent extremism and terrorism. It was revealing that the only reference to violent extremist ideologies, which had been included in the previous year's resolution, had been taken out of the present draft resolution. Instead, a list of the forces that had been resolutely combating terrorism and extremism had been included.

90. It was peculiar that a number of countries in the West that preached to others about human rights had sided with countries that, at the very least, had always exported intolerance to many parts of the world, to say nothing of what they did with the people inside their borders. It was very unfortunate that the structural weakness of the United Nations human rights mechanisms was providing those countries with the opportunity to abuse the system and have such resolutions issued. It was especially regrettable that, in the wake of the recent upsurge of barbaric terrorist attacks in France, Lebanon, Egypt, Iraq and Turkey, which should have brought the international community together in a united front against terrorism, the draft resolution was sowing discord in the anti-terrorist camp.

91. **Mr. de Aguiar Patriota** (Brazil) said that there could only be a political settlement to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic. It was time for all parties to the conflict and their supporters to concede that insisting on a military solution would cause even more suffering to the Syrian people and increase political insecurity and instability in the region. Brazil urged all parties to prevent further militarization of the conflict and fully engage in ongoing negotiations in a spirit of compromise without preconditions.

92. While some of the language was out of place in a draft resolution on human rights, Brazil nevertheless commended the sponsors for addressing the situation of refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic. He delegation called upon all States to facilitate the legal and safe arrival of persons affected by the Syrian conflict and to provide them with the protection they deserved, with full respect for and protection of their human rights. Brazil was fully committed to doing its part in alleviating the plight of Syrian refugees.

93. Although some important improvements had been made to the text, Brazil remained concerned about its unbalanced nature and simplistic approach to crucial aspects of the conflict. The draft resolution still failed to properly address the responsibility of several opposition armed groups, including ISIL and the Nusra Front, for gross violations of international human rights and humanitarian law in the Syrian Arab Republic. The United Nations must remain impartial and never condone breaches of human rights and humanitarian law.

94. Regarding the use of toxic chemicals as weapons, the Security Council had established a joint investigative mechanism to determine which party to the conflict was responsible for their use. Its findings could not be prejudged without undermining the credibility of the process.

95. He also wished to reiterate that the "Caesar" report lacked the necessary legitimacy to be mentioned in any United Nations decision.

96. Brazil reaffirmed its commitment to support all efforts directed at building a political solution to the Syrian conflict through transparent, inclusive and non-sectarian negotiations. The international community must contribute to a Syrian-led peace process to bring the country back to the path of social development and peace.

97. **Mr. Morejón Pazmiño** (Ecuador) said that his delegation was concerned about the recent deterioration of the human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic. It condemned all human rights violations; there should be no impunity for those responsible for committing acts of violence or supplying arms to parties to the conflict, including organized terrorist groups. His delegation expressed solidarity with the Syrian people. References had been made to non-interference in the internal affairs of States, but that policy had only served to exacerbate the violence, weaken the Syrian State and strengthen

the terrorist organizations. The draft resolution did not sufficiently consider all the parties responsible for the crisis and would not help to achieve a peaceful solution with the participation of all Syrians and with full respect for Syrian sovereignty and independence. Human rights matters should be addressed by the Human Rights Council. The practice of presenting draft resolutions of that nature to the Third Committee served only to politicize the issue and did not help the victims of armed violence in Syria. For that reason, Ecuador had voted against the draft resolution.

98. **Mr. Poveda Brito** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) reiterated his delegation's principled position regarding country-specific resolutions, special rapporteurs and other human rights mechanisms. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela rejected the politically motivated and selective nature of those mechanisms, which were a violation of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations as well as the principles of universality, objectivity and non-selectivity, which were necessary in addressing human rights issues. Cooperation and dialogue were essential principles for the effective promotion and protection of human rights. For that reason, his delegation supported the ongoing appeals made by the Non-Aligned Movement on the issue. Venezuela once again urged the international community to continue the progress made by the Human Rights Council and to prioritize the universal periodic review process and take a collaborative approach to the human rights issue. He called for an end to the selective adoption of country-specific resolutions, which weakened the mandate of the Human Rights Council.

99. **Mr. Salam** (Lebanon) said that, with a view to safeguarding its integrity and stability, his country had consistently maintained a neutral stance with regard to the ongoing crisis in Syria and had abstained from voting on all draft resolutions on that crisis that were submitted to the United Nations and the League of Arab States for adoption. He emphasised however that, despite its abstention from voting on the present draft resolution, his country continued to support all efforts to end the violence in Syria, achieve a political solution to the ongoing crisis, address the needs of all those it had displaced and provide support to States hosting Syrian refugees. Hezbollah, to which reference had been made in the draft resolution, was a Lebanese political party that participated in his country's parliament and Government. He reaffirmed his country's principled position that a distinction must be made between terrorism and legitimate resistance against foreign occupation and underscored the key role played by Hezbollah in the struggle against the Israeli occupation.

100. **Mr. Marani** (Argentina) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution because his country prioritized defending human rights and protecting victims. All parties must put an end to the violence and violations of international human rights and humanitarian law.

101. Argentina emphatically rejected the perverse and barbarous acts of terrorism committed by ISIL and its affiliates, which not only threatened human life and dignity, but also the integrity and sovereignty of the affected States. Argentina supported the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic and called on all States to refrain from intervening through political, economic or militaristic means by supplying weapons, munitions or financing to the parties. Argentina had repeatedly called for an end to the provision of military equipment to the parties to the conflict and once again warned of the dangers of creating and empowering future terrorist groups similar to ISIL.

102. The use of chemical weapons by any actor under any circumstance was reprehensible and ran counter to the norms and standards of the international community. Argentina had therefore supported undertaking a swift, independent and objective investigation within the framework of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

103. The principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States must be respected, in keeping with the basic principle of respect for the sovereignty of States established in the Charter of the United Nations. The only way to end the conflict in Syria was dialogue, negotiation and peaceful resolution through substantive agreements.

104. **Mr. Liang** Heng (China) reiterated that it was China's consistent position that any differences in the area of human rights should be addressed through constructive cooperation and dialogue on an equal footing and on the basis of mutual respect. China was opposed to politicizing and exploiting the human rights issue to pressurize other countries and objected to country-specific human rights resolutions, which was why his delegation had voted against the draft resolution.

105. **Mr. Lauber** (Switzerland), speaking on behalf of Liechtenstein, Iceland and Switzerland, said that their countries were committed to improving the ever-worsening situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic. The Third Committee and the Human Rights Council had an important role to play in that regard, and their countries had therefore voted in favour of the draft resolution. However, the General Assembly could and should do better in addressing the dramatic human rights situation in Syria.

106. While the political aspects of the crisis had a direct impact on the human rights situation, such aspects should not take centre stage when systematic attacks against the civilian population continued unabated and a culture of impunity was pervasive, in part as a result of inaction by the international community. There was a danger that such an approach, arising from frustration with the Security Council's inability to make political progress, weakened the human rights message sent to the parties to the conflict.

107. It was disappointing that a number of suggestions that could have sharpened the human rights focus of the draft resolution had not been taken up. In future, the consultations process should be strengthened to give enough time to examine fully all suggestions from all sponsors.

108. Lastly, the language in operative paragraph 22 could have been streamlined and strengthened to clarify that there was a need not only to promote accountability, but also to hold the perpetrators of violations of international humanitarian and human rights law to account. The language on the recruitment and use of children in conflict could also have been brought into line with best practice.

109. **Ms. Mozolina** (Russian Federation) said that the draft resolution was another attempt to turn the Third Committee into a body that rubber-stamped politicized country-specific resolutions with the aim of exerting pressure on the Government of a Member State. Such an approach was not acceptable to the Russian Federation in principle.

110. The draft resolution unfortunately brought an atmosphere of conflict and mistrust to the General Assembly at a time when it was vital for the international community to consolidate efforts to combat international terrorism. By placing the blame for all that was happening in the Syrian Arab Republic on its Government, the draft resolution was at cross-purposes with the aim of achieving a political settlement of the crisis. For all the idle accusations against the Syrian authorities of human rights violations, nothing was said of the many crimes of various anti-government armed groups. The Russian Federation had thus voted against the draft resolution.

111. **Ms. Vrailas** (Greece) said that Greece was fully aware of the grave human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic and the urgent need for a political solution, and was thus in favour of the draft resolution. Nevertheless her delegation could not agree with the inclusion of the Al-Quds Brigades and the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps in paragraph 14 and had therefore abstained from the vote.

112. **Ms. Pritchard** (Canada) said that Canada understood that the intention of the seventh preambular paragraph was to express the global outrage at widespread and systematic violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law. In that context, the language on chlorine gas should not be misinterpreted to imply that the indiscriminate use of chlorine gas was what made it unlawful under international humanitarian law; it was the use of chlorine gas in all circumstances that constituted a violation of international humanitarian law, irrespective of whether it was used indiscriminately.

113. **Ms. Lucas** (Luxembourg), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that, as the largest donor, the European Union had demonstrated its willingness and commitment to do what it could to alleviate the humanitarian consequences of the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic. The latest phase of the Syrian civil war had been marked by a military escalation that risked prolonging the conflict, undermining the United Nations-led political process, aggravating the humanitarian situation and increasing radicalization. Only a Syrian-led political process leading to a peaceful and inclusive transition, based on the principles of the Geneva communiqué of 30 June 2012, would bring back stability, enable peace and reconciliation, create the necessary environment for efficient counter terrorism efforts and maintain the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic. There could not be lasting peace under the present leadership and until the legitimate grievances and aspirations of all components of Syrian society had been addressed. The European Union was actively supporting the commitments made by the International Syria Support Group in Vienna on 14 November 2015 with a view to

launching an intra-Syrian political process and achieving a nationwide ceasefire.

114. With regard to the reference to foreign terrorist fighters, foreign organizations and foreign forces fighting on behalf of the Syrian regime in paragraph 14, she said that it was important to ensure that resolutions on human rights concerns remained objective and were not overtly politicized.

115. Mr. Saito (Japan) said that Japan agreed with the thrust of the draft resolution and had consistently sponsored such resolutions submitted to the Third Committee and the Human Rights Council. In so doing, it took into consideration whether the draft resolution accurately reflected the dire human rights situation in the country, as well as its foreign policy on the Syrian Arab Republic. While Japan felt uncomfortable with the reference to the Al-Quds Brigades and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, it had maintained its support for the draft resolution with a view to keeping the overall message intact. Japan sincerely hoped that all relevant actors in the Syrian Arab Republic would take heed of the message and work towards improving the situation.

116. Ms. Kaszás (Hungary) said that Hungary reiterated its deep concern about the human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic. It strongly condemned the indiscriminate attacks, atrocities, mass killings and conflict-related sexual violence, and called on all parties to respect international human rights and humanitarian law.

117. Underlining its concerns regarding paragraphs 14 and 16 of the draft resolution, which referred to foreign terrorist fighters, foreign organizations and foreign forces fighting on behalf of the Syrian regime, Hungary was of the view that resolutions on human rights should avoid politicization. It regretted the lack of transparent consultations on the draft resolution which had prevented the valuable concerns of States from being reflected in the final text. In future, it hoped that such unnecessary divisive issues would be avoided.

118. Mr. Al-Mouallimi (Saudi Arabia) expressed his appreciation to delegations that had voted in favour of the draft resolution and assured States that their views would be taken into consideration. He sincerely hoped that in future the Committee would not need to adopt similar draft resolutions on the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.

United Nations

A/C.3/70/SR.52

General Assembly

Seventieth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
15 January 2016

Original: English

Third Committee

Summary record of the 52nd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 20 November 2015, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Hilale .... (Morocco)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 28: Social development (A/C.3/70/L.15/Rev.1)

Action on draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.15/Rev.1: Integrating volunteerism into peace and development: the plan of action for the next decade and beyond

1. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

2. **Mr. Saito** (Japan), speaking also on behalf of Brazil, said that volunteering could be understood as an effective tool of social engagement and participation for all people – at the local, national, regional and global levels.

3. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, the Central African Republic, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark. El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Mozambique, Nepal, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, the Niger, Nigeria, Norway, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America and Uruguay had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

4. **Mr. Amoudokpo** (Togo) said that youth employment was a significant concern for the Togolese public authorities. Employment was not only a means of subsistence, but was essential for psychological balance and participation in social life. The Togolese Government had established a youth employment programme in 2011 that would provide 200,000 jobs to young people over a five-year period. One of the programme's components was a national volunteerism initiative that provided skills-building opportunities for unemployed young graduates. It was managed by the Ministry of Development, with support from the United Nations Development Programme, while promotional and management activities were carried out through regional volunteerism centres in the five economic regions. The initiative was part of the poverty reduction strategy and had provided training for over 6,000 young volunteers.

5. In the future, the initiative would be open both to young people from 18 to 35 years of age with no previous training and to senior citizens with relevant experience who could facilitate the sharing of experiences and skills. He expressed appreciation to the countries and institutions that had provided assistance to transform the initiative into a national volunteerism agency.

6. *Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.15/Rev.1 was adopted.*

Agenda item 71: Right of peoples to self-determination (A/C.3/70/L.60)

Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.60: Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination

7. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

8. **Ms. Lodhi** (Pakistan) said that Belize, El Salvador, Ghana, Jamaica, Kenya, Paraguay, Senegal, Seychelles, Swaziland, Rwanda and Tajikistan had joined the sponsors, bringing the total number of sponsors to 76. The right to self-determination was a central principle of the Charter of the United Nations and of common article 1 of the two international human rights covenants. It was a basic and inalienable human right that was an essential prerequisite for the full realization of other fundamental human rights, as affirmed at all major summits of the United Nations and in the declarations and resolutions of other international bodies. The General Assembly's consistent support for previous draft resolutions on that important subject had reaffirmed the continued relevance of the right to self-determination and sent a strong message of support to all peoples suffering occupation and oppression.

9. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Honduras, Lesotho, Mauritius and the United Republic of Tanzania had joined the sponsors.

10. *Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.60 was adopted.*

11. **Ms. Brooke** (United States of America) said that her delegation had joined the consensus on the draft

resolution in view of the importance of the subject. However, the resolution contained many misstatements of international law and was inconsistent with current State practice.

12. **Mr. Mazzeo** (Argentina) said that his Government fully supported the right to self-determination of peoples that were still subject to colonial domination or foreign occupation. However, that right should be interpreted in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 2625 (XXV) and other relevant United Nations resolutions. The exercise of the right to self-determination presupposed an active subject in the form of a people subjected to alien subjugation, domination and exploitation, in accordance with paragraph 1 of resolution 1514 (XV). Without such a subject, there was no right to self-determination. The draft resolution just adopted should be interpreted and implemented in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee on decolonization.

13. **Ms. Ortega** (Spain) said that, while his Government fully supported the right to self-determination, there were situations in which the administering Power and the authorities of a colonized territory had established a political relationship in their own interest and denied any colonial link, while still claiming a so-called right to self-determination. That was a distortion of the Charter of the United Nations and of the relevant General Assembly resolutions and the conventions mentioned in the draft resolution.

14. The original population of Gibraltar had been forced to leave the territory, whereas the current inhabitants were descendants of those installed by the occupying Power for military purposes. In such circumstances, Spain denied the existence of a right to self-determination protected under international law. The United Nations doctrine on the decolonization of Non-Self-Governing territories firmly established the protection of the rights of the indigenous inhabitants vis-à-vis the interests of the colonizers. The United Nations considered that the situation in Gibraltar compromised the territorial integrity of Spain, and for decades Spain had been calling for dialogue on the issue. Spain believed that a solution that respected the interests of Gibraltar's inhabitants could be found, and hoped that the United Kingdom would join the effort to seek a solution, in accordance with the mandate provided by the General Assembly and the commitment made to Spain in the 1984 Brussels Agreement.

15. **Ms. Bell** (United Kingdom), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the Government of the United Kingdom reaffirmed its long-standing commitment to the people of Gibraltar. The United Kingdom would not enter into any arrangement under which sovereignty over Gibraltar would be transferred to another State against the wishes of the people of Gibraltar and it would not enter into sovereignty negotiations that they opposed.

Agenda item 72: Promotion and protection of human rights

(a) Implementation of human rights instruments

Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.25/Rev.1; Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto

16. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

17. **Ms. Sage** (New Zealand) said that, as the ten-year anniversary of the adoption of the Convention was approaching in 2016, it was important to send a clear message that States remained committed to the rights of persons with disabilities. The Convention was a tool for both human rights and development. In 2017, Member States would move away from the current text, which was largely procedural in nature, towards something more substantive. The first such text would address issues affecting women and girls, who were subject to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, and it would be informed by the report requested in the current draft resolution. Her delegation looked forward to continuing the efforts with Member States and persons with disabilities to shift the focus from disabilities and highlight their abilities.

18. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Andorra, Bangladesh, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Maldives, Malta, Morocco,

Mozambique, Namibia, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, San Marino, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Sudan, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen and Zimbabwe had joined the sponsors.

19. *Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.25/Rev.1 was adopted.*

20. **Mr. Joshi** (India) said that his delegation welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution. The international community had adopted the Convention in order to ensure the protection and promotion of universal human rights and dignity for persons with disabilities in all aspects of society and development. An estimated one billion persons in the world were disabled and 20 percent of them were among the poorest in the world. That large group could be making a significant contribution to sustainable development, but that could only happen if poverty eradication and disability mainstreaming were at the core of sustainable development strategies.

21. For India, the challenges faced in the empowerment and realization of rights of persons with disabilities related to development as much as to human rights. The right to development offered a practical approach for the progressive realization of all human rights, including civil and political, social, economic and cultural rights. In future, Member States should endorse a comprehensive and holistic approach, mainstreaming the disability issue and emphasizing the right to development in sustainable development strategies.

Agenda item 72: Promotion and protection of human rights (*continued*)

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms (*continued*) (A/C.3/70/L.23/Rev.1, A/C.3/70/L.32, A/C.3/70/L.33, A/C.3/70/L.38, A/C.3/70/L.40/Rev.1 and A/C.3/70/L.41/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.23/Rev.1: Protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism

22. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

23. **Mr. Sandoval Mendiolea** (Mexico) said that the current version of the draft resolution included a reference to the importance of civil society and ensuring that counter-terrorism laws and measures fully respected the rights of freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association. States were also urged to ensure that gender equality and non-discrimination were taken into account when shaping, reviewing and implementing all counter-terrorism measures and to recognize the key role played by humanitarian organizations in areas where terrorist groups were active.

24. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lesotho, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) had joined the sponsors.

25. *Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.23/Rev.1 was adopted.*

26. **Mr. Essam** (Egypt) said that human rights and fundamental freedoms must be guaranteed at all times and in all circumstances and that counter-terrorism measures must fully comply with international human rights law. However, the draft resolution failed to give due consideration to the effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms; it was not only the rights of terrorists that should be taken into account but also those of the victims of terrorist attacks and threats. It was regrettable that his delegation's attempts to amend the resolution to reflect those concerns had gone unheeded. For that reason,

Egypt had not joined the sponsors, despite having sponsored similar resolutions in the past.

Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.32: Human rights and unilateral coercive measures

27. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

28. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) said that China, Kyrgyzstan and South Sudan had joined the sponsors.

29. **The Chair** said that a recorded vote had been requested on draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.32.

30. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.32.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Palau

31. *Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.32 was adopted by 126 votes to 53, with 1 abstention.*

32. **Ms. Brooke** (United States) said that her delegation had voted against the draft resolution because it had no basis in international law and did not serve to advance the cause of human rights. States bore the responsibility to protect and promote the human rights and fundamental freedoms of their citizens. The text of the draft resolution challenged the sovereign right of States to conduct their economic relations freely and to protect legitimate national interests, including by taking actions in response to national security concerns. The draft resolution also attempted to undermine the ability of the international community to respond to acts that were offensive to international norms. Unilateral and multilateral sanctions were a legitimate means to achieve foreign policy, security, and other national and international objectives. The United States was not alone in that view or practice.

Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.33: Promotion of equitable geographical distribution in the membership of the human rights treaty bodies

33. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

34. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the Russian Federation had joined the sponsors.

35. **The Chair** said that the delegation of Luxembourg had requested a recorded vote on draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.33.

36. **Mr. Reisen** (Luxembourg), speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States in explanation of the vote before the voting, said that while the European Union recognized the importance of the principle of equitable geographical distribution, the composition of human rights treaty bodies was already prescribed in the provisions of the respective human rights treaties, some of which already recommended that consideration should be given to equitable geographical distribution. The General Assembly should not attempt to modify those provisions or ask States Parties to do so. The European Union opposed the idea of using a quota system to elect members of treaty bodies; experts were elected based on personal merit, not as representatives of States or regional groups. Furthermore, the draft resolution failed to reiterate that the independence and impartiality of members of the human rights treaty bodies was essential for the performance of their duties, in line with resolution 68/268. For those reasons, the European Union member States would vote against the draft resolution .

37. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.33.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Costa Rica

38. *Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.33 was adopted by 124 votes to 54, with 1 abstention.*

Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.38: Human rights and cultural diversity

39. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

40. **Mr. Maes** (Luxembourg), speaking on behalf of the member States of the European Union in explanation of vote before the vote, said that his delegation had requested ae recorded vote on behalf of those States. The European Union attached great importance to the promotion of cultural diversity, which implied a commitment to human rights and

fundamental freedoms. According to relevant United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) instruments and declarations, cultural diversity could be promoted and protected only if human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as the ability of individuals to choose cultural expressions, were guaranteed. Media pluralism and freedom of assembly and of association were essential for the expression of cultural diversity.

41. According to the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, no one could invoke cultural diversity to infringe upon human rights guaranteed by international law, or to limit their scope. Moreover, it was the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic or cultural systems, to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all. Regrettably, the draft resolution included references to discriminatory treatment of cultures and religions, shifting the focus away from the individual as the rights holder, which was the fundamental principle for human rights. Furthermore, the references to universally accepted human rights could be misinterpreted to imply the existence of human rights that were not universal. The European Union member States would therefore vote against the draft resolution and requested that all delegations do likewise.

42. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.38.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

None.

43. *Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.38 was adopted by 130 votes to 54.*

44. **Ms. Brooke** (United States of America) said that her Government continued to support the promotion of cultural pluralism, tolerance, cooperation and dialogue among individuals from different cultures and civilizations. All Governments were responsible for protecting the rights and freedoms set out in international human rights law. Under the Charter of the United Nations, the international community was committed to cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.

45. Cultural diversity had played a critical role in the history of her own country, which demonstrated that cultural diversity could strengthen human rights. However, her delegation was concerned that the concept of cultural diversity as described in the draft resolution could be misused to legitimize human rights abuses. Human rights were universal and respect for them enhanced respect for diversity. Efforts to promote cultural diversity should not infringe on the enjoyment of human rights nor justify limitations on their scope. By raising the concept of cultural diversity to the level of an essential objective, while failing to reflect concerns about its possible misuse, the draft resolution misrepresented the relationship between cultural diversity and international human rights law. Cultural diversity and its relationship with human rights law was characterized in a more accurate and balanced way in Human Rights Council resolution 17/15, and her delegation had joined the consensus on that resolution in June 2011.

46. Furthermore, the United States did not agree that UNESCO should take up initiatives aimed at promoting intercultural dialogue on human rights or that the Secretary-General should prepare a report on the implementation of the resolution. For those and other reasons, her delegation had voted against the draft resolution.

Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.40/Rev.1: Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief

47. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

48. **Mr. Essam** (Egypt), speaking on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that were members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, said that a number of revisions had been made to the text following informal negotiations, including the deletion of the eighteenth preambular paragraph bis, paragraph 3 and paragraph 8 (e). Introducing an oral revision, he said that the phrase "and welcoming further the offer of Chile to host the next meeting in 2016" should be deleted, as that offer had been withdrawn.

49. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Australia, Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Congo, Eritrea, Ghana, Lesotho, New Zealand and Thailand had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution, as orally revised.

50. **Mr. Maes** (Luxembourg), speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Union, said that the European Union viewed the resolution as a call to States to respond to acts of intolerance and discrimination with full respect for international human rights law. The international community must consolidate its collective response to counter those who sought to use religion as an instrument for sowing division, intolerance, extremism and violence. Any restrictions on freedom of expression, which was a key tool for combating religious discrimination, hatred and violence, could undermine efforts to combat intolerance and should be imposed with sensitivity and in accordance with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; such restrictions should not be a pretext for arbitrary or discriminatory limitations of fundamental rights.

51. States, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, religious entities and the media all had key roles to play in facilitating the interreligious or intercultural dialogue that was crucial for combating religious hatred and its manifestations. Cultural diversity or religious traditions must not, however, be invoked as grounds for curtailing human rights guaranteed under international law.

52. Religious hatred was primarily a threat at the local and national levels, and States were primarily responsible for protecting the rights and freedoms of members of religious minorities and communities. All persons should be able to enjoy their human right to practice their religion or belief, irrespective of whether they were members of a minority or a majority, and to worship freely, without fear of intolerance expressed through violent attacks. The European Union condemned attacks on religious sites as violations of international law.

53. The European Union would continue its efforts to combat all intolerance that infringed on the human rights of others. It was in the light of that understanding that the European Union joined the consensus on draft resolution.

54. *Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.40/Rev.1, as orally revised, was adopted.*

Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.41/Rev.1: Freedom of religion or belief

55. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

56. **Mr. Maes** (Luxembourg), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the States members of the European Union and the other main sponsors, urged all States to step up their efforts to promote freedom of religion or belief, including by implementing related universal periodic review recommendations. The adoption of the draft resolution by consensus would send a strong collective message to the world that freedom of religion or belief was a fundamental right of all persons.

57. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ghana, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Panama, the Philippines, Thailand, Turkey and Ukraine had joined the sponsors.

58. *Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.41/Rev.1 was adopted.*

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.

United Nations

A/C.3/70/SR.53

General Assembly

Seventieth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
13 January 2016

Original: English

Third Committee

Summary record of the 53rd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 23 November 2015, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Hilale .... (Morocco)
later: Mr. Dempsey (Vice-Chair) .... (Canada)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 29: Advancement of women (*continued*)

(a) Advancement of women
(*continued*) (A/C.3/70/L.24/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.24/Rev.1: Improvement of the situation of women and girls in rural areas

1. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

2. **Mr. Sukhee** (Mongolia), speaking on behalf of the sponsors, said that the draft resolution had been substantially updated in the light of the productive informal consultations that had taken place among Member States. The current text reflected important current issues for rural women, including indigenous and older women. In the light of the new Sustainable Development Goal 5 on achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls, the draft resolution had been extended to girls, and the language streamlined where necessary.

3. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Algeria, Angola, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Eritrea, Estonia, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Uruguay, Zambia and Zimbabwe had joined the sponsors.

4. *Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.24/Rev.1 was adopted.*

5. **Monsignor Grech** (Observer for the Holy See) emphasized that women played an important role in sustainable development and as critical agents for change in their families and communities. His delegation was deeply concerned about discrimination against rural women and the increasing impact of climate change and conflict that disproportionately affected their ability to achieve their full potential.

6. His delegation supported the inclusion in the draft resolution of means to advance the situation of rural women through increased access to agricultural resources, food security, education, health care and political space. However, a more comprehensive approach should have been taken to certain elements, notably to strengthening the health and nutritional needs of rural women. His delegation also had some reservations about the use of expressions such as "sexual and reproductive health", "reproductive rights" and "family planning" in paragraph 2(g). Those reservations had been fully set out in the report of the International Conference on Population and Development (A/CONF.171/13/Rev.1), held in Cairo in 1994, and in the report of the Fourth World Conference on Women (A/CONF.177/20/Rev.1), held in Beijing in 1995. The use of such terminology did not create any new rights, nor did it imply that abortion was permissible as a method of family planning. His delegation also understood the term "gender" to mean male and female only, according to the customary and general usage of the term.

7. **Ms. Salim** (Libya) said that her delegation, which recognized the important contribution of rural women and their right to empowerment, integration and equal participation, had joined the consensus on the draft resolution. It did, however, have reservations about the inclusion in paragraph 2(g) of the reference to "reproductive rights", which conflicted with national legislation, the religious and moral values of Libyan society, and with Libya's social and cultural background.

8. **Mr. Elbahi** (Sudan) said that his delegation had reservations about the reference to "sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights" in paragraph 2(g).

9. **Mr. Al-Qumim** (Yemen) said that his delegation similarly had reservations about the reference to "reproductive health and reproductive rights" in paragraph 2(g).

10. **Mr. Guelaye** (Mauritania) said that his delegation also wished to register its reservations regarding the reference to "reproductive rights" in paragraph 2(g).

(b) Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (*continued*) (A/C.3/70/L.68)

Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.68: Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

11. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

12. *Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.68 was adopted.*

Agenda item 71: Right of peoples to self-determination (*continued*) (A/C.3/70/L.42, A/C.3/70/L.58)

Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.42: The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination

13. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

14. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Andorra, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malta, Mauritius, Monaco, Montenegro, Myanmar, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, San Marino, Serbia, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay and Zambia wished to join the sponsors.

15. **The Chair** said that a recorded vote had been requested on draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.42.

16. **Mr. Israeli** (Israel), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, said that only Israelis and Palestinians could make the difficult compromises necessary to forge lasting peace or create two States for two peoples. Instead of negotiating, the Palestinian leadership continued to undermine genuine peace efforts by taking damaging unilateral steps and reaching out to Hamas, a recognized terrorist organization. Adoption of the draft resolution would encourage further unilateral steps.

17. His Government had consistently demonstrated its willingness to compromise; yet the Palestinians had still not recognized Israel as the homeland of the Jewish people or their right to live in peace and security. While it was much easier to take unilateral steps rather than engage in bilateral negotiation, such action would not benefit the Palestinian people in Ramallah, Hebron and Gaza.

18. Israel believed that all peoples had the right to self-determination. However, it would vote against the draft resolution because the solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict depended on direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. His Government called on the Palestinian leadership to stop pursuing unilateral actions and to join them at the negotiation table. Israel supported a two-State solution; however, it should be based on mutual recognition and serious security arrangements on the ground. True friends of the Palestinians and peace should not support such a one-sided draft resolution.

19. *At the request of the delegation of Israel, a recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.42.*

In favour:

> Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon,

Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Palau, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Honduras, South Sudan, Tonga.

20. *Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.42 was adopted by 170 votes to 6, with 4 abstentions.**

21. **Mr. Mazzeo** (Argentina) reaffirmed his country's recognition of the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to form an independent, viable State. His delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution in accordance with the Argentine Government's recognition of the State of Palestine in December 2010. That decision was intended to favour the process leading to the end of the conflict and was consistent with Argentina's firm conviction that all peoples had the right to live together. Israel should also be recognized by all and able to live in peace and security within its borders.

22. He recalled that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), the exercise of the right to self-determination required an active subject, namely a people subjected to alien subjugation, domination and exploitation, without which the right to self-determination did not exist. Welcoming the adoption of the draft resolution, his delegation hoped that it would contribute to the realization of the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people, including the right to an independent Palestinian State.

23. **Ms. Rasheed** (Observer for the State of Palestine) said that the overwhelming support for the draft resolution and its large number of sponsors reaffirmed the international community's unwavering support for the Palestinian people, who had lived under Israeli occupation for nearly half a century, and their right to self-determination. Moreover, that support conveyed to Israel that its distorted narratives, violations and contempt of international law had been rejected, would not be tolerated and should cease. The draft resolution, which was based on international law and the Charter of the United Nations, in no way obstructed the peaceful and fair resolution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. The right to self-determination was an inalienable right of the Palestinian people and was not open to negotiation.

24. Israel's vote against the draft resolution would only further entrench the belief of the Palestinian people that Israel rejected a real peace settlement based on the existence of two States. To achieve a just peace, the right to self-determination should be mutually recognized by both parties. Israel should be reminded that the Palestinians had recognized the State of Israel over 20 years ago, and had agreed to a Palestinian State that covered only 22 per cent of historical Palestine. However, Israel had never recognized either a Palestinian State or the right of Palestinians to a State. The Prime Minister of Israel had stated on many occasions, most recently in March 2015, that a Palestinian State would never be permitted on his watch — a sentiment that continued to be voiced by many Israeli officials. The international community had shown, through its overwhelming support for the draft resolution, that it would not accept such an outcome. The Palestinian people would never forgo their inalienable human rights, including to freedom, self-determination, justice and peace.

25. Rather than denying the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination or the State of

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* The delegation of Botswana subsequently informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

Palestine its rightful place among the community of nations, and rejecting Palestine's peaceful, legal and diplomatic efforts to achieve peace through a two-State solution, the time had now come to hold Israel accountable to international law and the Charter of the United Nations to which it was obligated as a member of the United Nations. Israel had grossly abused the privilege of United Nations membership, a privilege that Palestine had long been wrongly denied. The occupation by Israel should be brought to an end, finally enabling the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, the independent State of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital, and the peaceful and secure coexistence of both Palestinians and Israelis.

Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.58: Use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination

26. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

27. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Antigua and Barbuda, Benin, the Central African Republic, Chile, the Congo, Egypt, El Salvador, Ghana, Guinea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Malaysia, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania, had joined the sponsors.

28. *Mr. Greg Dempsey (Canada), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

29. **The Chair** said that a recorded vote had been requested on draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.58.

30. **Mr. Reisen** (Luxembourg), speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States in explanation of vote before the voting, said that new modalities of mercenary activities could have a significant negative impact on the nature and duration of armed conflict and thus on human rights. While the European Union shared many of the concerns of the Working Group on the use of mercenaries set out in the report (A/70/330), it continued to regret the lack of conceptual clarity in the draft resolution and in the mandate of the Working Group. Private military and security companies, which could not be equated with mercenaries as defined by international humanitarian law, should therefore not be considered by the Working Group. Doing so would create confusion with the work of the open-ended intergovernmental working group, which had been entrusted to consider the possibility of elaborating a legally binding instrument on the regulation, monitoring and oversight of the activities of private military and security companies. The two distinct processes should be dealt with separately.

31. The European Union was also concerned about the inclusion in the mandate of the Working Group of the phenomenon of foreign fighters, which fell outside the purview of the draft resolution. Mercenaries were clearly defined by international humanitarian law and their activities were different to those of foreign fighters. The similarities between the two categories were not sufficient to justify amending the mandate of the Working Group. Moreover, the consideration of two very different issues under a single mandate would not contribute to resolving related human rights issues.

32. For those reasons, the European Union would, as in previous years, vote against the draft resolution. However, it would continue to participate actively with interested States in a dialogue on preventing the threat to human rights posed by mercenary activities within a more appropriate framework.

33. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.58.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint

Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Colombia, Fiji, Kenya, Mexico, Switzerland, Tonga.

34. *Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.58 was adopted by 121 votes to 53, with 6 abstentions.*

35. **Mr. Mazzeo** (Argentina) said that his Government fully supported the right to self-determination of peoples subjected to colonial domination and foreign occupation, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 2625 (XXV). He reiterated that the exercise of the right to self-determination required an active subject, namely a people subjected to alien subjugation, domination and exploitation, without which the right to self-determination did not exist. The draft resolution just adopted should be interpreted and implemented in keeping with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee on Decolonization.

36. **Mr. Israeli** (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that over recent weeks vicious attacks against innocent Israeli citizens perpetrated by Palestinians as a direct result of incitement by radical Islamists and terrorist elements had increased. The persistent refusal to recognize the Jewish State within any borders lay at the core of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. His Government looked forward to achieving a real, lasting peace that was based on truth and guaranteed the long-standing right of the Jewish people to live freely and securely in their ancestral homeland.

37. **Ms. Rasheed** (Observer for the State of Palestine), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said the fact that 170 Member States had voted in favour of the draft resolution on the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination (A/C.3/70/L.42) sent a strong message to Israel that its narrative was not the correct one. She asked whether Israel truly believed that peace would be fostered by waging three devastating wars against 1.8 million people trapped in the world's largest prison; stealing and confiscating Palestinian land and installing illegal settlers who were acting as militias and attacking Palestinians; killing, injuring and imprisoning Palestinian civilians; and violating nearly every single right of the Palestinian people.

38. Israel must understand that the continuation of its violations and occupation would serve only to fuel the anger and frustration of the Palestinian people. Despite the extreme hardships they faced, the Palestinian people would never surrender as a result of Israel's illegal policies.

Agenda item 72: Promotion and protection of human rights (*continued*)

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms (*continued*) (A/C.3/70/L.30, A/C.3/70/L.31, A/C.3/70/L.37/Rev.1, A/C.3/70/L.43, A/C.3/70/L.48/Rev.1, A/C.3/70/L.49/Rev.1, A/C.3/70/L.51/Rev.1, A/C.3/70/L.56)

Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.30: Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order

39. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

40. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Bangladesh, Belize, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Comoros, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, El Salvador,

Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Malaysia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo and the United Republic of Tanzania had joined the list of sponsors.

41. **The Chair** said that a recorded vote had been requested on draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.30.

42. **Mr. Reisen** (Luxembourg), speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States in explanation of vote before the voting, agreed that efforts should be made to promote a democratic and equitable international order, and that the important issues raised in the draft resolution required consideration and action by all countries. The European Union was founded on the common determination to promote peace and stability. Respect for human rights, human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality and the rule of law underpinned all aspects of its internal and foreign policies.

43. Having considered the report of the Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order and the draft resolution submitted by Cuba, the European Union remained of the opinion that a number of the elements in the draft resolution went beyond the scope of the human rights agenda of the United Nations. For that reason, States members of the European Union would, as in previous years, vote against the draft resolution.

44. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.30.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Chile, Costa Rica, Lesotho, Mexico, Peru.

45. *Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.30 was adopted by 121 votes to 53, with 5 abstentions.*

46. **Mr. Mazzeo** (Argentina) said that his delegation was concerned about the continued abuse by some Member States of the extraterritorial application of their national legislation in blatant violation of the sovereignty of other Member States. It was particularly concerned about a dispute recognized by the United Nations where the parties involved had been expressly called on not to act in a unilateral manner pending resolution of the dispute. The extraterritorial application of national legislation in disputed areas against the sovereignty of another Member State was a violation of international law, and should be

repudiated. For that reason, his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution.

47. **Ms. Phipps** (United States of America) said that her country, which devoted substantial resources to global development efforts, continued to have reservations about the draft resolution and its treatment of development-related issues. Her delegation had voted against the draft resolution, which inappropriately challenged the sovereign right of all States to freely conduct their economic relations and protect their legitimate national interests. The long-standing concerns of the United States about the existence of a right to development were well known. There was no agreed international understanding of the right to development, which must be made consistent with the international community's understanding of human rights.

48. The United States believed not only in allowing markets to operate but also in working with other countries to create a more favourable investment climate, rather than relying on Governments and international institutions to direct private capital. Development assistance was best used not to distribute wealth, but to assist countries in attracting private capital flows and in participating in global trade. The United States encouraged all countries to pursue an approach to development that respected human rights, involved local stakeholders, promoted transparency and accountability, and built the institutions that underpinned sustainable development.

Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.31: Strengthening United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity

49. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

50. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Angola, Bangladesh, Belize, Colombia, Comoros, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, El Salvador, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Rwanda, Senegal, the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkmenistan and Uganda had joined the list of sponsors.

51. *Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.31 was adopted.*

Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.37/Rev.1: The right to development

52. **Ms. Moreno Guerra** (Cuba) speaking on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, asked the Secretary of the Committee to clarify whether the draft resolution contained any programme budget implications.

53. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the Secretariat was in the process of preparing a document on programme budget implications in relation to draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.37/Rev.1. It would appreciate an indication, at the earliest opportunity, of any oral revisions to the text.

54. **Ms. Moreno Guerra** (Cuba), speaking on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, said that the words "on the day before the start of" in paragraph 46 should be replaced with "in the margins of".

55. **The Chair** suggested that action on the draft resolution, as orally revised, should be postponed pending preparation by the Secretariat of the document on its programme budget implications.

56. *It was so decided.*

Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.43: Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights

57. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

58. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Botswana, Burkina Faso, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, the Philippines, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia and the United Republic of Tanzania had joined the sponsors.

59. **The Chair** said that a recorded vote had been requested on draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.43, as orally revised.

60. **Mr. Essam** (Egypt) asked which delegation had requested the recorded vote.

61. **The Chair** said that the recorded vote had been requested by the delegation of the United States of America.

62. **Mr. Reisen** (Luxembourg), speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States in explanation of vote before the voting, said that the European Union attached great importance to the

globalization agenda, which should be considered in a much more comprehensive manner. Although globalization had implications for the full enjoyment of human rights, there were certain human rights and fundamental freedoms that could not be perceived as being affected by that process. The impact of globalization should be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Globalization could offer means to tackle the most acute problems facing the international community, such as extreme poverty. However, the draft resolution regrettably concentrated almost exclusively on the negative aspects of globalization and failed to take note of the positive ones, and the European Union would therefore welcome a more balanced approach to the issue. It remained convinced that the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework was the best means of supporting business respect for human rights. The member States would therefore vote against the draft resolution.

63. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.43, as orally revised.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Greece, Papua New Guinea

64. *Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.43, as orally revised, was adopted by 128 votes to 53, with 2 abstentions.*

65. **Mr. Ríos Sánchez** (Mexico) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution, as it was important to monitor human rights in the context of globalization, promote inclusive social and economic development and create the conditions necessary for poverty eradication. It would, however, have preferred the text not to have made reference to Human Rights Council resolution 26/9, since it considered the elaboration of an international legally binding instrument on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights to be premature. Insufficient information was available on national practices, experiences, successes and obstacles concerning human rights in the business context. Mexico encouraged the implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights as a valuable tool to encourage private sector respect for human rights, and would welcome their continued dissemination before a decision was taken on the need for codification.

Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.48/Rev.1: The safety of journalists and the issue of impunity

66. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

67. **Mr. Pouleas** (Greece), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, thanked all delegations for their support, flexibility and constructive engagement in producing a balanced text that reflected the concerns voiced by Governments and civil society. It was three years since the General Assembly had declared 2 November as the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists and much more needed to be done to counter the upward trend in the number of journalists being killed and targeted. The draft resolution highlighted the need to take further steps to prevent violence, threats and attacks against journalists, and prevent the vicious cycle of impunity. It also highlighted the international community's commitment to protecting journalists against all violations and abuses of their human rights.

68. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Andorra, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, the Central African Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Japan, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Mexico, Peru, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Switzerland had joined the sponsors.

69. *Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.48/Rev.1 was adopted.*

70. **Ms. Mozolina** (Russian Federation) welcomed the readiness of the sponsors to engage in a dialogue and balance the interests of various States. Despite the international community's efforts, the situation with respect to ensuring the safety of journalists left much to be desired. Sometimes their rights were blatantly ignored, and at others their health and very lives were at stake. Journalists were unfortunately being included in so-called black lists, preventing them from conducting their work in some countries and their work visas were sometimes cancelled. Certain States were also continuing the shameful practice of blocking television channels. Future draft resolutions on the subject should address such issues of concern, as the safety of journalists must be a priority. However, extending the definition of journalists to include almost all those using the Internet would not facilitate an effective response. The same applied to usage of the term "media workers" in the text. The draft resolution should not be considered to apply to users of new and social media, including bloggers and users of social networks and other individuals who were not professional journalists.

Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.49/Rev.1: National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights

71. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

72. **Mr. Braun** (Germany) introduced the draft resolution through which the General Assembly, for the first time, encouraged United Nations mechanisms and processes to enhance the participation and contribution of national human rights institutions. Such institutions cut across the traditional dividing line between the State and civil society and, because of their unique status, could provide authoritative yet independent information on human rights violations and raise awareness.

73. The draft resolution recognized that the added value of national human rights institutions in the international human rights system extended beyond the Human Rights Council in Geneva. Relevant United Nations mechanisms and processes were encouraged to enhance the participation of national human rights institutions and allow for their contribution. Four New York-based United Nations mechanisms and processes in which the enhanced participation of national human rights institutions could be particularly valuable had been highlighted, namely the Commission on the Status of Women, the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the high-level political forum.

74. The draft resolution advocated a customized approach to the participation of national human rights institutions and gave United Nations mechanisms and processes the freedom to decide on how to involve such institutions. It also recognized national human rights institutions as key players in bridging the gap between national and international human rights systems and in translating the resolutions adopted by the Committee into effective action on the ground.

75. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Andorra, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cabo Verde, Canada, the Central African Republic, Côte

d'Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Iraq, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Norway, Palau, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) had joined the list of sponsors.

76. **Ms. Bell** (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), welcoming the draft resolution, said that the United Kingdom's domestic law prohibited reprisals or intimidation against members or staff of national human rights institutions and individuals cooperating with them. The national police force acted with autonomy from the Government in deciding where and how to investigate alleged criminal offences. The United Kingdom had three national human rights institutions with "A" status accreditation, namely the Equality and Human Rights Commission, the Scottish Human Rights Commission and the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission. They provided the United Nations with evidenced-based information and promoted the implementation of human rights norms and standards, including by supporting the universal periodic review, special procedures and treaty bodies. Strong, independent national human rights institutions were an important means of protecting international human rights standards.

77. **Ms. Morton** (Australia), speaking also on behalf of Canada, France, Iceland, New Zealand and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, welcomed the open and transparent manner in which the negotiations had been conducted. The importance of supporting the participation of national human rights institutions in United Nations processes should not be underestimated, given the crucial role played by those institutions in promoting and protecting human rights at the domestic, regional and international levels: they provided valuable on-the-ground expertise and offered an independent voice on national human rights situations.

78. Enhanced engagement across United Nations mechanisms and processes would also strengthen the ability of national human rights institutions to work towards improving domestic human rights situations. The Human Rights Council in Geneva provided a best practice model for the engagement of national human rights institutions, which should be emulated, as appropriate, in the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, treaty monitoring bodies, processes related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other relevant United Nations mechanisms and processes. The measures provided for in the draft resolution to enhance the engagement of national human rights institutions in the United Nations should be pursued in the future.

79. *Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.49/Rev.1 was adopted.*

80. **Ms. Mozolina** (Russian Federation) said that her delegation had joined the consensus on the draft resolution. National human rights institutions played an important role in the promoting and protecting human rights, and the Russian Federation supported efforts to strengthen the independence of such mechanisms. National human rights institutions should pay equal attention to monitoring legislative activities, law enforcement practices and the human rights situation regarding all population groups. Cooperation between government bodies, national human rights institutions and civil society should be further developed. States should support the activities of national human rights institutions and use them in accordance with the Paris Principles for the protection and promotion of human rights. Her delegation was confident that national human rights institutions would continue to contribute effectively to the work of the United Nations human rights mechanisms in accordance with their mandates and rules of procedure, without detriment to the intergovernmental nature of their work.

81. **Mr. Joshi** (India) said that India strongly supported the strengthening of national human rights institutions. However, certain provisions of the draft resolution were overly prescriptive on matters touching upon the nature and role of national human rights institutions — elements that were clearly set out in national legislation. The draft resolution purported to attribute definite roles, including placing national human rights institutions as an intermediary between Governments and the United Nations. Such action should be avoided, bearing in mind the unique position of those institutions in the national human rights architecture. His delegation had joined the consensus on the draft resolution, but called for the sponsors to remain mindful of such considerations in the future.

Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.51/Rev.1: Protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons

82. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

83. **Mr. Lyngroth** (Norway), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the sponsors, said that the text reaffirmed key human rights and humanitarian principles and expressed a common commitment to the large and growing number of persons internally displaced worldwide for a variety of reasons, including conflict and natural disasters. It also recognized the important role of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the human rights of internally displaced persons.

84. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, the Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, El Salvador, Greece, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Latvia, Liberia, Madagascar, Malta, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mozambique, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Somalia, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay had joined the sponsors.

85. *Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.51/Rev.1 was adopted.*

86. **Mr. Grant** (Canada) said that Canada was committed to ensuring that the most vulnerable people were protected and that their needs were met. Comprehensive responses were required to meet the needs of internally displaced persons, increase the resilience of host communities and address the root causes of displacement, such as conflict, persecution and discrimination, particularly in the context of protracted situations of displacement.

87. Canada welcomed the improved references in the text to protracted displacement, host communities, gender mainstreaming, resilience and communication with displaced persons, as well as language recognizing the adverse effects of climate change as contributors to environmental degradation and extreme weather events, which might contribute to human displacement. Canada, recognized that urgent action must be taken to respond to climate change — an issue of global importance and security.

88. **Mr. Elbahi** (Sudan) said that his Government was doing its utmost to protect and promote the human rights of its citizens, including internally displaced persons. His delegation had joined the consensus on the draft resolution, but wished to reserve its position with regard to the sixteenth preambular paragraph, and disassociated itself fully from the reference to the International Criminal Court contained therein.

89. **Mr. Sargsyan** (Armenia) welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution, which sought to set out the challenges and vulnerabilities of internally displaced persons, and called upon States to take effective, practical measures to address the situation.

90. In order to strengthen the objective of the important draft resolution further, his delegation had put forward, for inclusion in the thirteenth preambular paragraph, a proposal on recognizing the universality of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and inviting States to consider ratifying the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977 as a vital international legal framework. Despite the support it had garnered and the constructive efforts of the sponsors, the proposal had regrettably been obstructed. Armenia, a traditional sponsor of the text, remained fully supportive of the draft resolution and hoped that its proposal would be reflected in a subsequent draft resolution on internally displaced persons.

Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.56: Towards the full realization of an inclusive and accessible United Nations for persons with disabilities

91. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

92. **Mr. Oh** Joon (Republic of Korea) introduced the draft resolution also on behalf of Antigua and Barbuda, Brazil, Italy, Poland and the United Republic of Tanzania. The main sponsors considered that the United Nations, which was the birthplace of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that included disability as a cross-cutting issue, should lead by example in protecting and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities. Although the United Nations had made progress in promoting an inclusive and accessible environment, shortcomings remained, not only because of a lack of resources, but also because of the absence of a comprehensive policy.

93. The draft resolution sought to provide for a unified and comprehensive policy framework to make the working environment at the United Nations fully inclusive and accessible for persons with disabilities. It further requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a comprehensive report on the status and application of existing regulations, facilities and services, and areas requiring improvement; best practices and views of Member States, other international organizations and relevant stakeholders; and recommendations on how to better coordinate, facilitate and monitor practical accessibility measures to provide reasonable accommodation in a cost-effective manner to meet the needs of persons with disabilities for their participation in meetings, conferences and services at United Nations premises. The report was expected to add significant value to the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2016.

94. Noting the importance of collective engagement and close coordination in connection with the report's preparation, he welcomed the contribution of the Secretariat-wide Inter-Departmental Task Force on Accessibility, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management in promoting an inclusive and accessible environment at all United Nations premises.

95. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Canada, the Central African Republic, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, the Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, South Sudan, the Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Yemen had joined the sponsors.

96. *Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.56 was adopted.*

Agenda item 106: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*) (A/C.3/70/L.8/Rev.1, A/C.3/70/L.13/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.8/Rev.1: Strengthening the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity

97. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee), presenting a statement of programme budget implications in accordance with rules 153 and 154 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, said that, to implement the activities requested in paragraph 16, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) would require additional extrabudgetary resources in the amount of $139,700 to provide for one professional post at the P-3 level for four working months and consultancy services.

98. Turning to the activities requested in paragraphs 28 and 40, he said that, in order to continue to provide technical assistance for capacity-building, UNODC would require extrabudgetary resources of $351,300 providing for one professional post at the P-3 level for 12 months, three assessment missions, two legislative drafting workshops and four capacity-building workshops.

99. Extrabudgetary resources in the amount of $187,200 would be required to hold one regional workshop on the smuggling of migrants by sea, of which $36,300 would be allocated for one professional post at the P-4 level for four months.

100. The development and launch of the first international case law database on the smuggling of migrants would require $242,400, of which $36,300 would be allocated for one professional post at the P-4 level for two months and $58,900 would be allocated for one professional post at the P-3 level for four months.

101. The activities provided for in paragraph 32 would entail extrabudgetary resources of $3,955,000 per year as well as $227,400 to provide for: one professional post at the P-4 level for 12 months; workstation and communication charges; travel; technical assistance and training activities.

102. Paragraph 43 would involve extrabudgetary resources of $1,051,800 per year to provide for: three professional posts at the P-3 level for 12 months; two meetings with drafting committees; an information technology contract to review the data collection questionnaire; software for data collection updating and adaptation; travel and one expert group meeting.

103. To implement the activities in paragraph 45, UNODC would require extrabudgetary resources in the amount of $222,700 providing for one professional post at the P-4 level.

104. In order to implement the activities in paragraph 46, UNODC would require $390,300 providing for two professional posts at the P-2 level and information technology services costs.

105. Extrabudgetary resources in the amount of $470,500, providing for two professional posts at the P-4 level and three expert group meetings, would be required for UNODC to implement the activities requested in paragraph 47.

106. As the activities would take place only if additional extrabudgetary resources were provided, adoption of draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.8/Rev.1 would not entail any additional resources under the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017.

107. Lastly, with regard to paragraph 8, he said that any resource requirements resulting from the General Assembly's consideration of the report of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption for the biennium 2018-2019 would be reviewed in accordance with established budgetary procedures.

108. **Mr. Lambertini** (Italy), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.8/Rev.1, said that its main purpose was to build consensus and highlight the fight against transnational crime within the broader framework of United Nations policy and action, implement and promote the universality of all relevant United Nations instruments and confirm support for the technical assistance activities of UNODC in that field.

109. The draft resolution struck a balance between the need for a coordinated, effective and global response to combat organized crime in all its forms and the need to protect the human rights of communities and victims as well as perpetrators.

110. Language had been introduced relating to the phenomenon of terrorism. The growing links, in some cases, between some forms of transnational organized crime and terrorism had been recognized, and the specific threats posed by terrorism had been addressed. The importance of strengthened international cooperation had also been stressed.

111. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, the Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, the Czech Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Peru, the Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Sudan, Spain, the Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America and Zimbabwe had joined the sponsors.

112. *Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.8/Rev.1 was adopted.*

113. **Mr. Hassani Nejad Pirkouhi** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his delegation supported the thrust and objectives of the draft resolution. However, it wished to disassociate itself from paragraph 32, which referred to the Financial Action Task Force. That entity was not affiliated with the United Nations and worked in a non-transparent and non-inclusive manner. Its establishment had not been subject to any United Nations or other intergovernmental negotiation processes and frameworks, and the decisions of the Task Force reflected biased, politicized and non-technical considerations. Furthermore, the financial prosperity of terrorist groups, such as Islamic State in Iraq and the

Levant (ISIL), indicated to a large extent the failure of the Task Force to fulfil one of its core missions, namely countering the financing of terrorism.

Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.13/Rev.1: Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons

114. **Ms. Belskaya** (Belarus), introducing the draft resolution, said that paragraphs 3 and 4 had been included in error and should be deleted from the text.

115. In adopting the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons five years previously, the General Assembly had sent a clear and strong signal to the international community that it had the will and means to end modern slavery. Partnership, primarily among States that bore primary responsibility and leverage in the economic, social and legislative arenas for eliminating the reasons for the demand for human merchandise and destroying the criminal networks profiting from it, was an important tool in achieving that crucial goal, as was cooperation to prevent the spread of that shameful business, punish the perpetrators and restore the dignity and rights of the victims.

116. The draft resolution recognized the link between eliminating trafficking in persons and sustainable development, and focused on improving the coordination of efforts by Governments, international and non-governmental organizations, the mass media and the private sector to combat trafficking in persons.

117. An important provision concerned the holding of a high-level meeting of the General Assembly at its seventy-second session to review the implementation of the Global Plan of Action. Such a forum would provide an opportunity to consider the experience of all regions in combating trafficking in persons, foster cooperation, provide for honest and open consideration of financing of efforts in that area in the United Nations system, and confirm the political will to eradicate modern slavery.

118. The adoption of the draft resolution would make an important contribution to the coordinated efforts of States to combat trafficking in persons. The consultation process had highlighted the importance of being guided by a common objective, and of a readiness to compromise and listen to others in order to achieve a tangible result. Indeed, a readiness to view each other first and foremost as people, rather than simply as national representatives, would go a long way towards building a global partnership against modern slavery.

119. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee), presenting a statement of programme budget implications in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, said that the paragraphs to which he was referring had been renumbered in the light of the oral revision made by the delegate of Belarus.

120. Pursuant to the request contained in paragraphs 4 and 5, it was understood that the high-level meeting would be part of the General Assembly programme. As services would be covered by the meeting entitlement of the Assembly, there would be no additional meeting requirements for the proposed high-level meeting.

121. With regard to paragraphs 9 and 10, he noted that there was currently a very limited staff allocation of only two crime prevention and criminal justice officers at the P-4 level for the implementation of UNODC core mandates relating to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Person, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the Global Plan of Action. As those existing regular budget staff resources were fully devoted to already mandated programme activities, no staff resources could be redeployed.

122. Noting that an extrabudgetary contribution of $600,000 in 2012 had enabled the Office to undertake a series of technical assistance and advocacy activities in connection with the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT) and the Global Plan of Action, he said that extrabudgetary resources in the amount of $180,300, providing for an additional programme officer at the P-3 level, would be required to continue those activities and ensure enhanced coordination.

123. In connection with paragraph 9, extrabudgetary resources would also be required to provide for two ICAT policy papers, one ICAT coordination-policy/working group meeting in Geneva and one General Assembly briefing to present the list, including travel for ICAT agencies and promotional materials.

124. In connection with the reference in paragraph 4 to "within existing means", he noted that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for

administrative and budgetary matters. As the activities would be carried out only if the extrabudgetary resources were made available, adoption of draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.13/Rev.1, as orally revised, would not entail any financial implications under the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017.

125. Lastly, he said that Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, China, Comoros, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Gambia, Iceland, India, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Portugal, the Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Serbia, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Uganda, the United States of America and Uzbekistan had joined the sponsors.

126. **Ms. Mendelson** (United States of America) welcomed the forthcoming adoption of the draft resolution, recalling, as President Obama had noted, that the fight against human trafficking was one of the great human rights causes of the time. Trafficking in persons, which constituted modern-day slavery, a criminal act, a threat to development and a cause and symptom of instability around the world, touched many people in undetected ways, including though products manufactured using forced labour.

127. At the time of the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in 2000, the global commitment to end trafficking had been built around the three pillars of prevention, prosecution and protection. A fourth pillar, partnership, had been added through the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons in 2010.

128. The international community, which had recognized that it would only be possible to eradicate that form of modern slavery through collective action involving Member States, the private sector and civil society, had renewed the call to eliminate trafficking in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Sustainable Development Goal 5 on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, Goal 8 on promoting sustained, inclusive and economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all, and Goal 16 on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions for all, contained targets seeking to end trafficking.

129. The United States remained committed to building a global partnership and looked forward to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly at its seventy-second session to appraise the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.

130. *Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.13/Rev.1, as orally revised, was adopted.*

131. **Mr. Fawundu** (Sierra Leone), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution and commended the efforts of delegation of Belarus in leading the negotiations on the text. The Group considered the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing that Convention, as the main instruments in the fight against transnational crime. He recalled the determination of African leaders in adopting a decision at the 2008 Assembly of the African Union on strengthening the cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union in combating trafficking in human beings that had been supported by the Non-Aligned Movement the following year.

132. The African Group wished to reaffirm its support for the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, which served not only as a coordinating mechanism for all Member States, but also as a strategic framework for the international community, including civil society, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. The Global Plan of Action should be fully and effectively implemented if the international community was to succeed in combating trafficking in persons.

133. Cooperation and coordination were vital, and the Group emphasized the important role of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons. The Group was deeply concerned about the inadequate funding allocated to UNODC as coordinator in the fight against trafficking in persons, and called on Member States to step up their efforts to ensure that the Office received adequate funding from the regular budget to deliver its mandate effectively.

134. The Group was committed to working with all stakeholders to counter the threat of trafficking in persons. It supported the holding of a high-level meeting of the General Assembly at its seventy-second session to appraise the progress achieved in implementing the Global Plan of Action, and stood ready to engage actively in preparations for that event, including the modalities. The Group trusted that the participation of non-governmental organizations not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council would be considered on a non-objection basis.

135. **Mr. Reisen** (Luxembourg), speaking on behalf of the European Union and its member States, said that the elimination of human trafficking was a major political priority for the European Union. It remained strongly committed to fighting that serious crime, which constituted a gross violation of the human rights of victims and was increasingly a major feature of transnational organized crime.

136. The European Union considered the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, notably the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, as fundamental legal instruments in the fight against human trafficking. It also attached importance to the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

137. The European Union was grateful to the delegation of Belarus for submitting a draft resolution aimed at improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons and noted with appreciation that its implementation would have no budgetary implications.

138. The appraisal of the Global Plan of Action should be meaningful and provide for an action-oriented assessment of gaps and challenges with the participation of all relevant stakeholders. The participation in the high-level meeting of international, regional and subregional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the media, must to be ensured through an open and transparent accreditation procedure. The European Union, which would have preferred such language to be included in the draft resolution, hoped that those considerations would be taken into account when deciding on the modalities of the high-level meeting. It also emphasized that the meeting should be organized within existing resources.

139. **Ms. Smalla** (Nigeria) welcomed the adoption by consensus of the important draft resolution. Nigeria, a State party to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols, supported legitimate measures to combat trafficking in persons, which was a growing problem, a threat to international peace and security, and an obstacle to the attainment of fundamental human rights.

140. Concerted global action must be taken to address the root causes of trafficking in persons and the multifaceted predisposing factors. While efforts were being made to tackle the scourge in source countries, destination countries must also take steps to address issues of demand that made trafficking attractive to the criminal networks exploiting weaknesses in immigration policies. In that regard, she highlighted the importance of sharing intelligence.

141. The Committee's unity in adopting the important draft resolution sent a strong message to trafficking networks that business as usual would no longer be possible.

142. **The Chair**, in accordance with General Assembly decision 55/488, suggested that the Committee should take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (A/70/90-E/2015/81) and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime on its seventh session (A/70/407).

143. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 1.30 p.m.

United Nations

A/C.3/70/SR.54

General Assembly
Seventieth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
15 January 2016

Original: English

Third Committee

Summary record of the 54th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 24 November 2015, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Dempsey (Vice-Chair) .... (Canada)

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(a) Promotion and protection of the rights of children (*continued*)

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In the absence of Mr. Hilale (Morocco), Mr. Dempsey (Canada), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Agenda item 28: Social development (*continued*)

(b) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family (*continued*) (A/C.3/70/L.11/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.11/Rev.1: Policies and programmes involving youth

1. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

2. **Mr. Mendonça e Moura** (Portugal), introducing the draft resolution, said that there were over 1.8 billion young people in the world, which constituted one fourth of the population. Youth issues were cross-cutting and affected all Member States. The draft resolution therefore did not focus on a particular region, but provided a useful basis for action and policies for youth development at the national, regional and international levels. It highlighted the connection between the World Programme of Action for Youth and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which together represented an opportunity to tackle the challenges affecting youth development. The draft resolution also acknowledged the positive contributions of the youth representatives to the General Assembly.

3. **Mr. Lupan** (Republic of Moldova) said that the draft resolution covered many complex issues on which Member States sometimes took diametrically opposed positions. Nevertheless, the balanced text of the draft resolution represented a collective effort; he hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

4. In paragraph 18, the commas should be deleted before and after "in contravention of applicable international law".

5. **Mr. Ciss** (Senegal), said that the informal consultations had focused on strategic goals related to issues such as poverty eradication, education, health, HIV/AIDS, climate change, the empowerment of women, gender equality, decent employment, globalization and armed conflict. It was vital to promote the contributions of young people in that regard. The draft resolution sought to benefit from the demographic dividend and enhance efforts to ensure the full and effective implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, based on the commitments made in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

6. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia And Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Eritrea, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Republic Of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe had joined the sponsors.

Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.11/Rev.1, as orally revised, was adopted.

7. **Ms. Tzeggai** (Denmark), speaking also on behalf of Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Colombia, Croatia, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Palau, Romania, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and Uruguay, said that her delegation attached great importance to youth-related issues and strongly believed in the core tenants of the resolution: encouraging a partnership approach, supporting a democratic youth voice and encouraging strategic approaches to tackling the prevailing issues facing young people.

8. Half the global population was under the age of 25, yet young people suffered from one of the worst reproductive and sexual health situations in society. The rights, opportunities and choices of young women and girls were particularly undermined by pervasive gender-based discrimination and violence. Young people around the world were increasingly highlighting sexual and reproductive health and rights as a priority in recommendations to their Governments. Those rights were integral to preventing maternal deaths, HIV infections and early pregnancy and to protecting girls from violence, abuse and discrimination.

9. According to the World Health Organization, 16 million adolescent girls between the ages of 15 and 19 years and 1 million girls under the age of 15 years gave birth annually. Pregnancy and childbirth were the leading cause of death for adolescent girls in low- and middle-income countries, and an increasing number of young women were developing obstetric fistula as a result of giving birth at an early age. In addition, 39,000 girls under the age of 18 were married every day, thus increasing the chance of early pregnancy. Stillbirth and death in the first week of life were 50 per cent higher among babies born to mothers under the age of 20.

10. Globally, an estimated 5 million young people lived with HIV; new infection rates for young women were twice as high as for young men and only approximately one third of young men and one fourth of young women knew how to prevent the spread of HIV. Inadequate access to information and services for adolescents hindered their ability to protect themselves from contracting HIV and impeded efforts to reduce new infections.

11. Young women and girls were subjected to various forms of violence and harmful practices, including domestic abuse, sexual harassment, sexual violence, exploitation, trafficking and female genital mutilation. As many as 50 per cent of sexual assaults were committed against girls under the age of 16 years, and some 30 per cent of women and girls reported that their first sexual experience was forced.

12. The sexual and reproductive rights of young people, especially adolescent girls and young women, must be recognized, respected and protected as human rights, including through educational, legal and policy measures. Her delegation advocated for the inclusion of references to sexual and reproductive health and rights in resolutions, because adolescents, in particular women and girls, suffered tremendously from a lack of information and insufficient access to health care and services, which violated the human rights of each individual concerned and represented a major challenge to development efforts. Their ability to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights was imperative to achieving gender equality, educational attainment, economic development, poverty reduction and political participation. Her delegation would therefore continue to welcome and support the explicit reinforcement of the sexual and reproductive rights of young people in future resolutions.

13. **Ms. Smaila** (Nigeria) said that science, technology and innovation had the power to inform society and improve economic competitiveness and resilience. Those areas propelled and sustained development efforts by generating knowledge and technological and social innovations that met the demands of society. It was important to consider how investments in those areas could affect youth development prospects and their capacity to contribute to society. It was encouraging to see youth engagement in decision-making and development, which offered the unique opportunity to build capacity and create sustained partnerships that would culminate in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Youth participation was essential to achieving and implementing any sustainable development agenda.

14. Future resolutions should prioritize the importance of the family in providing guidance to youth, and States should recognize the active role of parents in the moral development of their children. Parents must be fully involved at every stage of the child's mental growth until maturity, including health, education and upbringing. Parental autonomy could not be overemphasized, particularly in guiding their children on cultural issues and forms of entertainment that demonstrated respect for human dignity. Young people felt enormous pressure from outside their homes to participate in undesirable activities; with parental guidance, they were able to develop informed and decent minds and contribute meaningfully to society.

15. **Ms. Al-Temimi** (Qatar), speaking on behalf of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, said that the Council's member States supported the draft resolution. The importance of involving young people in social and economic life constituted a national priority for those Governments and had been incorporated into their policies and goals. The member States welcomed the paragraph highlighting the role played by the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth with a mandate to ensure that the voices of young people were heard throughout the United Nations system. They would endeavour to implement the resolution in line with their own values, religious beliefs, laws and national interests.

Agenda item 29: Advancement of women (*continued*)

(a) Advancement of women (*continued*) (A/C.3/70/L.7/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.7/Rev.1: Violence against women migrant workers

16. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

17. **Ms. Yparraguirre** (Philippines), introducing the draft resolution, said that there were a few oral revisions to be made to the draft resolution. In the twentieth preambular paragraph, a comma should be inserted after the words, "informal brokers". In paragraph 7, the words "and care" should be deleted, as should the words "and cooperation". Paragraph 7 would thus revert to the language used in resolution 68/137. In paragraph 9, the word "by" should be inserted before the words "facilitating", "exchanging" and "fostering".

18. While more States had made progress in implementing global normative and policy frameworks to protect women migrant workers from discrimination and violence, key gaps persisted in the development of targeted measures, the systematic nationwide collection and dissemination of disaggregated data, research and analysis to inform and evaluate policies and programmes, and the provision of information regarding access to justice for women migrant workers.

19. The draft resolution recognized that the demand for migrant care work was rising, and that some migrant workers engaging in informal care work, particularly women, faced serious human rights abuses owing to the invisible nature of their workplace. It also recognized that one of the key issues of labour exploitation that women migrant workers suffered was linked to the unscrupulous practices of some recruitment agencies and informal brokers, and that the vulnerability of women migrant workers highlighted the increasingly complex migration contexts and channels, where they could find themselves in life-threatening situations when entering other countries. The resolution encouraged Governments to address the push and pull factors contributing to the irregular migration of women, including the need to resolve care deficits in labour-importing countries and to regulate, formalize and protect the terms and conditions of employment and care work. It also encouraged States to consider designing and implementing financial literacy training for women migrant workers and their families. She hoped that the resolution would be adopted by consensus.

20. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burkina Faso, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ghana, Guinea, Honduras, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, Panama, Rwanda, Senegal, Timor-Leste, Uganda, Uruguay and Venezuela had joined the sponsors.

Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.7/Rev.1, as orally revised, was adopted.

21. **The Chair** suggested that, in accordance with General Assembly decision 55/488, the Committee should take note of the following documents: the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its fifty-eighth, fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions (A/70/38); the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/70/124) and the note by the Secretary-General on the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences (A/70/209).

22. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 65: Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions (*continued*) (A/C.3/70/L.62/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.62/Rev.1: Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa

23. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

24. **Mr. Fawundu** (Sierra Leone), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the African Group, said that the draft resolution reflected the consensus of all parties while highlighting the funding gaps and the deteriorating situation of the camps in Africa.

25. Presenting oral revisions to the text, he said that, in the fourth preambular paragraph, the words "refugees, returnees" should be replaced with "refugee, returnee". In the seventh preambular paragraph, the words "has led to" should be replaced with the phrase "are a major factor leading to". A new sixteenth

preambular paragraph should be added; it would read, "*Recognizing also* the need to encourage increased efforts towards voluntary return and local integration." In paragraph 2, the phrase "in order to ensure its wider implementation" should be added at the end of the paragraph. In paragraph 9, the word "refugee" should be replaced with "displaced". In paragraph 13, the words "for refugees" should be deleted. In paragraph 25, the phrase "which is not in line with the foreseen increase of displacement figures in Africa and the lack of durable solutions" should be deleted. In paragraph 26, the word "unearmarked" should be deleted. In paragraph 28, the phrase "and recalls that those solutions include voluntary repatriation and, where appropriate and feasible, local integration and resettlement in a third country" should be inserted after the word "context". Paragraphs 29 and 30 should be combined. A new paragraph 30 should be added; it would read, "*Encourages* African States, together with developments and humanitarian actors, to work closely on multi-year strategies for refugees and internally displaced persons."

26. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Albania, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Honduras, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, Timor-Leste and Turkey had joined the sponsors.

Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.62/Rev.1, as orally revised, was adopted.

27. **The Chair** suggested that, in accordance with General Assembly decision 55/488, the Committee should take note of the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa (A/70/337).

28. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 67: Report of the Human Rights Council (*continued*) (A/C.3/70/L.66)

Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.66: Report of the Human Rights Council

29. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

30. **Mr. Fawundu** (Sierra Leone), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the African Group, said that the Group attached importance to General Assembly resolution 60/251 and the resulting institution-building package that had served as the foundation of the Human Rights Council and its mandate. It was imperative for the Human Rights Council, as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, to report on an annual basis to the Assembly. In that regard, the Group remained committed to ensuring that the provisions of subparagraphs 5 (c), 5 (i) and 5 (j) of resolution 60/251 were implemented. Developments in the Human Rights Council, including the adoption of a constructive, cooperative approach, had contributed to furnishing a suitable foundation for overcoming past obstacles to consolidating universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The approach rested on the provision of advice and necessary technical and financial support upon the request of national Governments, given their primary responsibility to promote and protect human rights of all their citizens.

31. The report of the Human Rights Council contained recommendations of the utmost importance to many Member States. The principles of non-discrimination and equality were cross-cutting principles in efforts for the full realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. The Group was deeply concerned about attempts to introduce and impose new notions, such as sexual orientation and gender identity, that were not referenced in international human rights law. It strongly rejected any attempt to undermine the international human rights system by seeking to impose concepts pertaining to social matters, including private and individual conduct, that fell outside the internationally agreed human rights legal framework. Such attempts constituted a disregard for the universality of human rights, delved into matters that fell within the domestic jurisdiction of States and ran counter to the principles of the sovereignty of States and of non-intervention contained in the Charter of the United Nations. People were not inherently vulnerable, but some individuals and groups found themselves in vulnerable situations due to a number of factors, including their socioeconomic situation. Focusing on notions on which there was no international agreement only served to divide the Human Rights Council and undermine its balanced and egalitarian approach to the promotion and protection of all human rights. The Group called on all Member States to refrain from giving priority to the rights of certain individuals at the expense of other internationally agreed rights, which was contrary to the principles of non-discrimination and equality, and urged all Member States to step up efforts towards the

total elimination of all forms of racism, xenophobia and related intolerance. The Group of African States had introduced the draft resolution to express its continuous support for the important work of the Council and looked forward to the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus, which would provide a message of strong support to the Council.

32. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the Russian Federation and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela had joined the sponsors.

33. **Ms. Belskaya** (Belarus) said that Belarus noted the focus of the Human Rights Council on social and economic rights, the right to development and the situation of women, children, persons with disabilities and the elderly, and its support for the institution of the family. There was, however, a growing tendency towards adopting decisions by vote. The Council's voting mechanism was being used to promote approaches that had not been agreed upon as so-called standards; these approaches were then further promoted in the Third Committee and the General Assembly, where all States were called on to follow such standards unconditionally. Human Rights Council mechanisms, primarily country-specific resolutions and mandates, enabled groups of countries that had the necessary financial and organizational resources to legitimize their own one-sided measures against recalcitrant States and Governments. Belarus could not support such an approach and, given that the report put forward for adoption contained a decision that contravened the fundamental principles of international cooperation and the development of friendly relations between States, was compelled to request a vote on the resolution. It understood that the resolution was procedural, but the report itself and the work of the Council was not. Its request for a vote was also a call on certain groups of countries to return to the fundamental principles of international cooperation.

34. **Mr. Israeli** (Israel) said that everyday around the world, human rights were being violated in the worst kind of ways; people were being discriminately targeted by barrel bombs, hanged for so-called moral crimes and sold as sex slaves in city centres. Nevertheless, the Human Rights Council deliberately ignored those violations and continued its biased fixation on the only free democracy in the Middle East, the State of Israel. In 2014, the Council had established a commission of inquiry, which had been followed by a resolution that had distorted the truth, and had completely ignored the violations of international human rights and humanitarian law committed by Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups. Moreover, the Council did not seem to care about the human rights of Israelis. Thousands of missiles and mortars had been fired indiscriminately on Israeli cities, hospitals and schools, yet the Council had never mentioned the word "Hamas" in any of its resolutions.

35. The Council's conduct came as no surprise, as it had been taken over by some of the worst human rights violators in the world and had completely abandoned its founding principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity. In previous weeks, leaders had taken advantage of the Council's proceedings to spread their propaganda, defame a Member State and incite violence. Instead of advancing, the Council seemed to be reverting to the days of the dysfunctional Human Rights Committee. His harsh words were supported by figures: the Council had adopted over 60 country-specific resolutions against Israel and only 55 against the rest of the world; it had held 7 special sessions on Israel out of a total of 23; and it had established six fact-finding missions and commissions on Israel and only six on other countries. There was also a permanent item on its agenda to hold a separate debate on Israel. He urged all delegations with a genuine interest in promoting the human rights agenda around the world to voice their concern. Given that the report continued to perpetuate the politicized agenda against Israel, his delegation would vote against the resolution.

36. **Mr. Qassem Agha** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his country had actively participated in the establishment of the Human Rights Council and had voted in favour of the report and the resolutions contained therein for many years. It was regrettable that the report of the Human Rights Council encompassed the resolutions related to the situation in Syria, which were based on media reports that had relied on a single source of information. The report was also in line with the political aims of certain countries that did not want to see prosperity for Syria, its Government or its people. Previous resolutions had continually ignored the acts committed by armed terrorist groups and the need to disarm them and to call on the relevant countries to stop their ideological, political, financial and media support of those groups. His delegation would therefore abstain from voting on the draft resolution. He emphasized that such a vote

did not change his delegation's steadfast and principled position supporting the recommendations in the report pertaining to the Israeli violations of human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan and Palestine, which were just causes that deserved the support of all Member States. The representative of Israel should not forget that he was representing an occupying Power and the Zionist entity occupying the land of others, which was supporting the Nusrah Front and providing medical treatment to the terrorists of that organization in the town of Safed. The Organization had documented the crimes of the Zionist entity against the Palestinian and Syrian peoples for more than 60 years. The references to peace and democracy by the representative of Israel were shameless lies that nobody believed any longer. His delegation reiterated its principled position rejecting interference by any State in the internal affairs of other States under the pretext of protecting human rights and rejected the resolutions of the Council that exclusively targeted specific countries.

37. **Mr. Ri** Song Chol (Democratic People's Republic Korea) said that his delegation supported the request made by Belarus to vote on the draft resolution.

Statements made in explanation of vote before the voting

38. **Ms. Lucas** (Luxembourg), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the European Union had expressed concerns about the draft resolution since its inception, on considerations of principle as well as procedure. The Third Committee should consider only individual recommendations contained in the report of the Human Rights Council, not the report as a whole. Since the compromise reached in the General Assembly had been institutionalized as a result of the review of the Council's work, it had been the understanding of the European Union that the matter had been settled. The interactive dialogue in the General Assembly plenary allowed delegations to express their views on the work and functioning of the Council. It was also regrettable that there had been no opportunity to discuss the implications of the draft resolution at an open meeting in a timely manner, as many Member States had had questions about the text. For those reasons, the States members of the European Union would abstain from voting.

39. **Ms. Nescher** (Liechtenstein), speaking also on behalf of Albania, Australia, Canada, Iceland, New Zealand, Norway and Switzerland, said that his delegation supported the Human Rights Council but was once again compelled to abstain from the voting because of procedural concerns. In accordance with the outcome of the review of the work and functioning of the Human Rights Council contained in General Assembly resolution 65/281, it was the responsibility of the General Assembly plenary to take action on the report of the Council. For its part, the Third Committee should consider only the Council's recommendations. It was regrettable that the draft resolution continued to disregard the understanding contained in the General Assembly resolution by supporting consideration of the Council's report in the Third Committee.

40. **Ms. Razzouk** (United States of America) said that her country also had concerns with the resolution and would continue to abstain from voting. The United States was proud to have worked with other nations to pass some strong resolutions at the Human Rights Council concerning the most pressing country-specific and dramatic human rights issues; however, it remained deeply concerned about the Council's disproportionate focus on Israel and about certain other resolutions that had been adopted in 2015. Nevertheless, the Council had taken some important actions towards fulfilling its mandate to promote and protect human rights, which included working with States such as the Central African Republic and Somalia and drafting strong resolutions that addressed the grave human rights situations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Eritrea, Iran, South Sudan, Sudan and Syria. Her Government was also proud of the cooperative resolution on Sri Lanka, which was the result of close collaboration between the United States and the Government of Sri Lanka. The United States continued to view the resolution on the report of the Human Rights Council as procedurally unnecessary and was also concerned that, in previous years, some delegations had used it to attempt to undermine decisions made by the Human Rights Council. The resolution continued to be introduced without sufficient time for delegations to engage on the text and without any opportunity for open informal consultations on the resolution. For those reasons, the United States would continue to abstain on the resolution.

41. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.66.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Belarus, Israel.

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Eritrea, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

42. *Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.66 was adopted by 111 votes to 2, with 59 abstentions.**

43. **Ms. Vadiati** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that, despite the existence of cooperative mechanisms in the Human Rights Council, such as the universal periodic review, it was regrettable that certain States continued to politicize human rights and engage chronically in confrontational and coercive measures in the Human Rights Council. Those States persisted in the counterproductive and politically motivated practice of introducing country-specific resolutions for a select list of countries, while turning a blind eye their own dire human rights situations and those of their allies. Iran strongly rejected such harmful motives, as they were not conducive to effective and impartial work, undermined human rights as a whole and discredited the United Nations human rights mechanisms for political motivations. For that reason her delegation had abstained from the voting.

44. Iran disassociated itself from the sections of the reports of the Human Rights Council (A/70/53 and A/70/53/Add.1) pertaining to the counterproductive so-called resolution on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

45. **Ms. Garcia Gutierrez** (Costa Rica) said that Costa Rica fully supported the work of the Human Rights Council, its resolutions and recommendations. As a country committed to human rights and the mechanisms of the Organization that promoted and protected those rights, Costa Rica believed that it was vital to preserve the work and decisions of the Human Rights Council. Nevertheless, her delegation had abstained from voting. It was her country's position that the report of the Human Rights Council should be considered and adopted in the General Assembly plenary, and only the recommendations contained in the report should be considered by the Third Committee, in accordance with subparagraph 5 (j) of General Assembly resolution 60/251 and paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 65/281. She hoped that in the future those concerns would be taken into account and the text would be in line with the agreements that had been reached during the review of the Human Rights Council.

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* The delegation of Malawi subsequently informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

46. **Mr. Tin** (Myanmar) said that his country was against country-specific resolutions, which ran counter to the principles of objectivity, impartiality and non-politicization. There should be no further country-specific resolutions, whether in the Human Rights Council or in the work of the Third Committee. For that reason his delegation had abstained from voting.

47. **Ms. Vadiati** (Islamic Republic of Iran), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the double standards and politicized policies of the United States regarding human rights issues had been clearly demonstrated in its delegation's explanation of vote before the voting. While the Human Rights Council criticized and condemned the sixty years of violations of human rights by the occupying power in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, the United States supported the occupying Power and the country-specific resolution and rejected the violation of human rights by its allies.

Agenda item 68: Promotion and protection of the rights of children (*continued*)

(a) Promotion and protection of the rights of children (*continued*) (A/C.3/70/L.28/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.28/Rev.1: Rights of the child

48. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

49. **Ms. Lucas** (Luxembourg), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the European Union and the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, read out oral revisions to the draft resolution. Paragraph 11 should read: "Reaffirms paragraphs 15 to 19 of its resolution 68/147, and urges all States parties to intensify their efforts to comply with their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child to protect children in matters relating to registration, family relations and adoption or other forms of alternative care, and, in cases of international parental or familial child abduction, encourages States to consider accession to, or ratification of, the Hague Convention on the civil aspects of international child abduction which takes into consideration the principle of the best interests of the child and to engage in bilateral and, when appropriate, multilateral cooperation to resolve those cases, by facilitating, inter alia, the return of the child to his or her country or habitual residence where the appropriate court can make a custody decision, taking into consideration the principle of the best interests of the child."

50. Paragraph 48 should be revised to read "*Expresses its deep concern* about the growing number of attacks, as well as threats of attacks against schools, and recognizes the grave impact of such attacks on children's and teachers' safety, as well as on the full realization of the right to education, further expresses its concern that the military use of schools in contravention of applicable international law may also affect the safety of children and teachers and the right of the child to education, and encourages all States to strengthen efforts in order to prevent the military use of schools in contravention of international law".

51. In subparagraph 49 (m), the word "necessary" should be replaced with the words "all feasible" and the phrase "and protected persons" with the phrase "as well as persons entitled to protection".

52. The resolution would provide a good basis for the Committee's consideration of the promotion and protection of the rights of the child in the years to come, especially with a view to enhancing the realization of the right to education of all children.

53. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Canada, Guinea, Japan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Maldives, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Timor-Leste and Turkey had joined the sponsors.

54. **Mr. Fawundu** (Sierra Leone), speaking on behalf of the African Group, introduced an oral amendment to subparagraph 49 (u), which should be replaced with the following text: "To develop, where appropriate with the support of international organizations, civil society and non-governmental organizations, policies and programmes, giving priority to formal, informal and non-formal education programmes, including age-appropriate sex education, with appropriate direction and guidance from parents and legal guardians, that support adolescents and enable them to acquire relevant and adequate knowledge and information in a manner consistent with their evolving capacities, develop self-esteem and take responsibility for their own lives, and to place special focus on programmes to educate women and men, especially parents, about the importance of children's physical and mental health and well-being and the need to develop and maintain respectful relationships between girls and boys."

55. The proposed paragraph contained language identical to that in paragraph 6 of the draft resolution on the girl child (A/C.3/70/L.29/Rev.1), which had been adopted by consensus. The purposes of education programmes referred to in the present subparagraph 49 (u) were not in line with the obligations of Member States as reflected in articles 28 and 29 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child related to children's education. The African Group had made a reservation and disassociated itself from the same language in the agreed conclusions of the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and subparagraph 48 (l) of resolution A/69/157 and continued to stridently oppose that language in order to maintain the principles and purposes of the United Nations.

56. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) said that since just three States members of the United Nations that were members of the African Group were sponsors of the draft resolution, the proposed amendment could not be deemed to have been introduced on behalf of all the States members of the African Group.

57. **Mr. Fawundu** (Sierra Leone) said that he had introduced the proposed amendment in his national capacity.

58. **Ms. Mozolina** (Russian Federation), speaking on a point of order, asked what rules of procedure prevented a delegation that was sponsoring a resolution from also supporting an amendment to the resolution. Delegations had the right to determine their own position on submitted documents and proposals. A sponsor could surely support an amendment that did not alter the essence of the resolution and that might even improve its substance.

59. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the long-standing practice was to consider any changes introduced to a draft resolution by the main sponsor or a sponsor to be revisions. Amendments, on the other hand, were considered to be hostile in nature, unless they had not been the subject of prior consultations with the delegation proposing the amendment; it was therefore procedurally awkward to have a sponsor of a resolution introduce an amendment to its own draft resolution. If the proposal was brought to a vote, nothing in the rules of procedure prevented a sponsor of the draft resolution from voting in favour of a hostile amendment.

60. **Ms. Lucas** (Luxembourg) said that the proposed oral amendment was not agreeable to the main sponsors of the resolution. Her delegation, on behalf of the sponsors, therefore called for a vote on the amendment.

61. **Ms. Abdelkawy** (Egypt) said that, on the basis of the explanation provided by the Secretariat, there was no rule of procedure stating that if delegations pertaining to a regional group were sponsoring a resolution, the whole group was impeded from presenting an amendment. In her capacity as the coordinator of the African Group, she assured the Committee that a decision had been taken by the African Group of Ambassadors to introduce the amendment presented by Sierra Leone on behalf of the African Group. Since there was no rule of procedure impeding that, the African Group was still introducing and sponsoring the amendment.

62. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) said that when an amendment was not accepted by the main sponsor and therefore deemed hostile, logic would have it, although it was not stipulated by the rules of procedure, that that amendment could not be sponsored by a sponsor of the draft resolution. When the representative of Luxembourg had rejected the amendments, she had spoken on behalf of all sponsors of the draft resolution, including the three delegations belonging to the African Group. Those delegations could however withdraw their sponsorship of the draft resolution, at which point Sierra Leone would be able to introduce the oral amendment on behalf of all member States of the African Group.

63. *The meeting was suspended at 12.10 p.m. and resumed at 12.20 p.m.*

64. **Mr. Fawundu** (Sierra Leone) said that Sierra Leone wished to propose the amendment on behalf of 51 countries in Africa instead of the African Group.

65. **Ms. Abdelkawy** (Egypt) said that the African Group was convinced that what was going on was against the rules of procedure. There was no rule of procedure that stated that if some countries belonging to a regional group were sponsors of a resolution, consequently the whole group could not introduce an amendment to the resolution.

66. The following countries were sponsors of the proposed amendment: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire,

Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. If the other three delegations from the African Group wished to do so, they could sponsor the amendment.

67. **Ms. Byaje** (Rwanda) said that Rwanda had sponsored the draft resolution but was in favour of backing the amendment since it improved the original text.

68. **Ms. Farngalo** (Liberia) said that Liberia was not a sponsor of the amendment.

69. **Mr. Komara** (Guinea) said that Guinea would like to withdraw its sponsorship of the draft resolution and support the amendment proposed by Sierra Leone on behalf of the African Group.

70. **Ms. Lucas** (Luxembourg), making a general statement on behalf of the European Union and the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States in connection with the oral amendment to the draft resolution, said that the European Union and the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States had met little engagement during informal negotiations with regard to finding agreement on compromise language for the divergent views presented. However, the language in the text reflected a delicate balance of the various concerns. Given that the theme of the present year's resolution was the right to education, the importance of the paragraph in question was clear. The provision in the resolution of comprehensive evidence-based education for human sexuality, based on full and accurate information, for all adolescents and youth in a manner consistent with their evolving capacities, and with appropriate guidance from parents and legal guardians, would positively impact the lifelong well-being of adolescents and youth, by helping them make informed decisions, avoiding unwanted pregnancies and improving their health, including by increasing protection against sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS. The proposed amendment would delete several important elements and the European Union and the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States would therefore vote against it.

71. **Mr. Nina** (Albania), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, said that Albania was a convinced supporter and traditional sponsor of the resolution. It was important to address the issue of comprehensive evidence-based education in the resolution. Studies had proved that rights-based education within the classroom had been an effective tool for promoting respect and responsibility. Regrettably the proposed amendment sought to delete several important elements and his delegation would therefore vote against it.

72. **Ms. Silvana García** (Uruguay), speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, said that it had been of great importance for the Group and the European Union to maintain an open, transparent and inclusive dialogue in the negotiations on the draft resolution. The central theme of the current resolution was the right to education. The paragraph in question referred to comprehensive evidence-based education on human sexuality, based on complete and precise information, which would be provided to adolescents and children in education centres, under the guidance of their parents and legal guardians. That education would allow them to develop respectful relationships based on the principles of gender equality and human rights and was a vital tool for the healthy development of children, giving them the means to enjoy a full and dignified life. The resolution on the girl child had been undertaken in a separate context and with a different thematic focus. The text had been adopted just four business days earlier and did not need to be taken into account in drafting the current resolution, the theme of which was education. For that reason, the Group would vote against the proposed amendment and encouraged other Member States to do the same.

73. *A recorded vote was taken on the oral amendment to paragraph 49 (u) of draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.28/Rev.1.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, China, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

Abstaining:

Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam.

74. *The oral amendment to paragraph 49 (u) of draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.28/Rev.1 was rejected by 85 votes to 67, with 15 abstentions.*

75. **Mr. Eriza** (Indonesia) said that, although his delegation did not in principle have any specific objection to the formulation in the draft resolution, it had voted in favour of the amendment, because it better addressed the issue at hand and bridged differences.

76. **Ms. Denje** (Nauru) said that her delegation supported the oral amendment. The language calling upon States to develop and implement comprehensive education on human sexuality was unacceptable for her delegation, because that type of education violated the laws and cultural values of her country. The reference to modifying the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women of all ages was too vague to be properly implemented and could be interpreted in ways that also violated the laws and cultural values of her country. Although that language had been included in the previous year's resolution, it had not been adopted by consensus and it was not the language that was used in either the Convention on the Rights of the Child or the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

77. **Mr. Al-Qumim** (Yemen), speaking on behalf of Egypt, Iraq, Libya, Mauritania, Oman, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, said that those countries proposed that paragraph 49 (u) should be deleted, because it had not been agreed upon prior to its introduction.

78. **Ms. Lucas** (Luxembourg), speaking on behalf of the main sponsors of the draft resolution, said that the main sponsors did not agree with the new oral amendment and requested a vote on it.

79. **Ms. Belskaya** (Belarus) said that there was clearly no real consensus on the wording of the draft resolution. She asked whether it might have been simpler to remove the wording if the parties had not been able to reach an agreement on it during consultations, in order to introduce a consensus resolution, rather than one that resulted from pressure being exerted by the strong on the weak and the use of lobbying and other methods.

80. **Ms. Otto** (Palau) said that Palau was strongly committed to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the resolution in its original wording. Comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education delivered in an age-appropriate and culturally sensitive manner was an essential strategy to enable children and youth to realize their right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and should therefore remain part of the resolution.

81. **Mr. Khan** (Pakistan) urged the sponsors to keep the resolution free from controversy. There was already consensus on most of the resolution, but if there was controversy on one paragraph, Pakistan would strongly urge the sponsors to show some flexibility in order to arrive at a consensus and preserve such consensus for years to come.

Statements made in explanation of vote before the voting

82. **Ms. Lucas** (Luxembourg), speaking on behalf of the European Union, urged all Member States to vote against the oral amendment for the same reasons outlined previously. Paragraph 49 (u) touched on an important element and must be part of the resolution.

83. **Ms. García** (Uruguay) said that Uruguay aligned itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union and would vote against the deletion of the paragraph.

84. **Mr. Bessedik** (Algeria) said that any matter related to children or women should be approached with the principle of the supreme interests of the child in mind and with respect for the particularities and the moral and cultural values of the societies concerned. In that regard, his delegation saw that there was a clear desire to impose values that were completely alien to certain societies. His delegation therefore requested a vote on the deletion of the paragraph in question.

85. **Ms. Smaila** (Nigeria) said that her delegation would vote in favour of the deletion of paragraph 49 (u). The mention of educational programmes and teaching materials should be sufficient in addressing all intended objects of the resolution, without having to single out sex education. Sex education was referenced in the resolution as comprehensive evidence-based education on human sexuality, which was an absolute contravention of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Otherwise, religious and moral instruction, cookery, practical gardening, upholstery, welding and joinery should also be included in order to ensure a balanced education and comprehensive skills acquisition of children and adolescents. Singling out sex education, even if referred to as age-appropriate, out of so many fields of human and child development reflected some countries' perception of human rights, especially children's rights; such a perception was deficient because it rested on subjective, personal, emotional and psychological premises rather than on objective human rights situations.

86. Her delegation had consistently objected to the introduction of that issue into the Committee's deliberations because there was no consensus on its ramifications and it could be used to introduce other obligations or commitments that went against Nigeria's views. While recognizing the sovereign rights of States to interpret treaties in the light of their domestic realities, particularly their customary, judicial and religious outlooks, her delegation demanded that the United Nations should not be a forum for propaganda that did not enjoy any respectability, universal consensus or legal support.

87. **Ms. Mozolina** (Russian Federation) said that her delegation was disappointed by the position of the main sponsors on the paragraph of the resolution in question and could not agree that the process of finalizing the resolution had been truly transparent. It deeply regretted that, of all the existing problems related to education, so much time, energy and resources had been devoted to discussing only the issue of sex education. In the resolution, the word "comprehensive" was only applied in relation to sex education. It seemed that there was no desire for comprehensive education in areas such as maths, geography, history and natural sciences. Apparently; comprehensive sex education was more important for the younger generation. For some reason, not as much energy was spent discussing the issues of access to health and violence against children, and yet sex education was discussed year after year. She called on the main sponsors to shift the focus away from sex education towards finding consensus and solving issues that were acceptable to all delegations across the wide spectrum of problems relating to children.

88. **Mr. Mack** (United States of America) said that the United States strongly supported the paragraph as drafted and would vote against the proposed amendment.

89. **Mr. Clyne** (New Zealand), speaking on behalf of Australia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Norway and Switzerland, said that those countries, in the light of the outrageous exaggeration in many of the statements that had been made, urged delegations to read the text of the resolution and the relevant Conventions and jurisprudence. It remained convinced of the importance of comprehensive evidence-based education on human sexuality and called on all delegations to vote against the hostile amendment.

90. **Ms. Riley** (Barbados) said that Barbados, as a member of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, was a proud sponsor of the draft resolution and fully aligned itself with the statements made by the representative of Luxembourg on behalf of the main sponsors. The language of the paragraph was the result of careful negotiations. For example, the reference to comprehensive evidence-based education on human

sexuality was applied only to adolescents and youth and was armoured in caveats. In a resolution dealing with the right to education it was absolutely necessary to make a reference to education in that area for adolescents and youth. Barbados would therefore vote against the proposed amendment.

91. ***A recorded vote was taken on the proposal to delete paragraph 49 (u) of draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.28/Rev.1.***

***In favour*:**

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, China, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

***Against*:**

Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

***Abstaining*:**

Bhutan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Myanmar, Nepal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam.

92. ***The proposal to delete paragraph 49 (u) of draft resolution A/C.3/70/L.28/Rev.1 was rejected by 90 votes to 63, with 11 abstentions.***

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.